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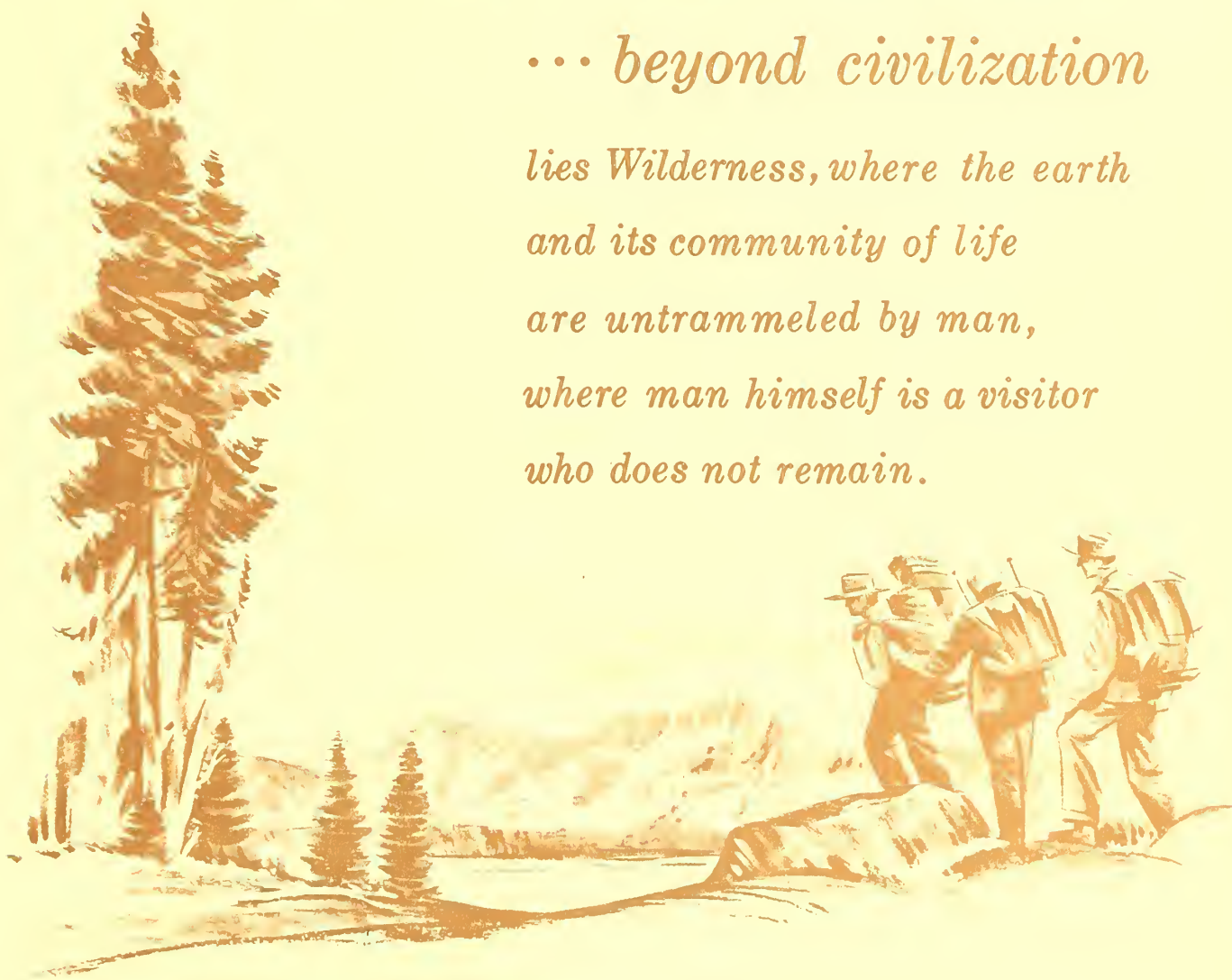
A Proposal

GILA WILDERNESS

Gila National Forest • New Mexico

... beyond civilization

*lies Wilderness, where the earth
and its community of life
are untrammelled by man,
where man himself is a visitor
who does not remain.*



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service • Southwestern Region



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LIBRARY

Suitability Forest Lands Wilderness

The
1964,

by the President on September 3,

The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within ten years after the enactment of this Act, review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified on the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as 'primitive' and report his findings to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to the designation as 'wilderness' or other reclassification of each area on which review has been completed, together with maps and a definition of boundaries.

The described review and action is required on the 5,477,740 acres included in the 34 Primitive Areas that were in existence when the Wilderness Act was signed. Similar action may also be required on other areas proposed for wilderness that are not Primitive Areas.

The following report describes an area that has been studied by the Department of Agriculture to determine its suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Similar reports will be prepared for each of the 34 Primitive Areas and for other National Forest areas on which studies have been made.

PROPOSED GILA WILDERNESS

NEW MEXICO

Recommended By:

W. D. Idrest
(Regional Forester)

8/31/73

Date

Recommended By:

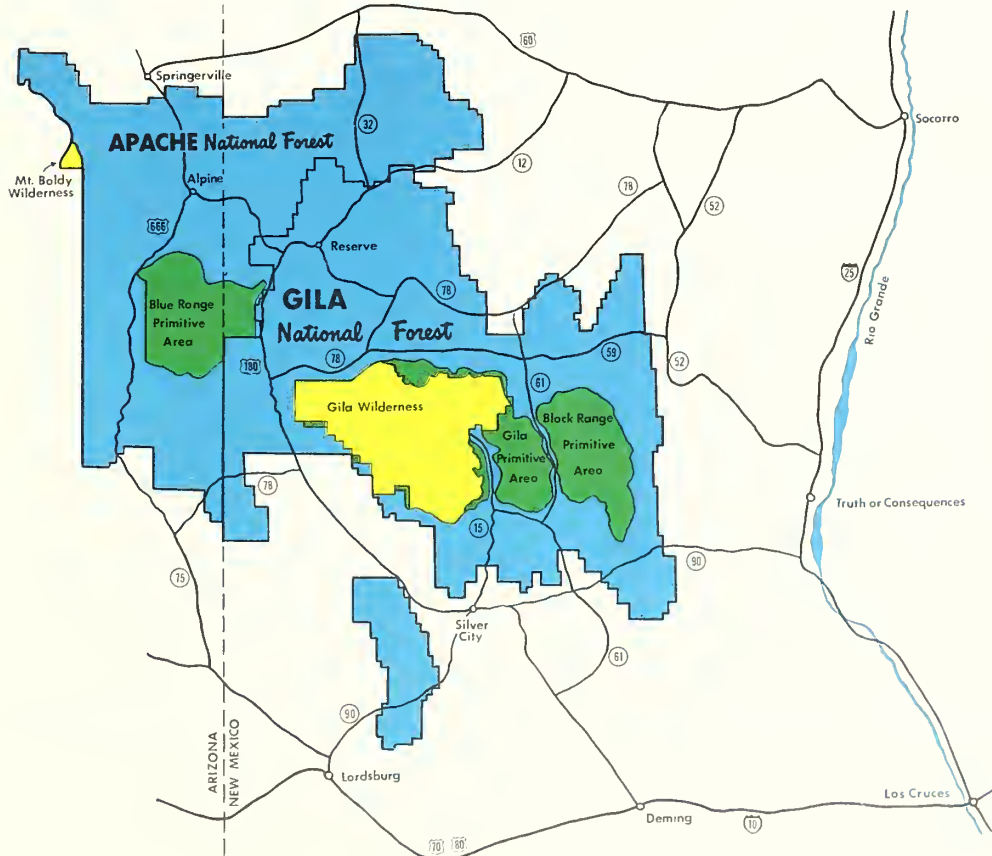
John R. McGuire
(Chief, U. S. Forest Service)

Feb. 1, 1974
Date

Report Approved:

Karl L. Butz
(Secretary of Agriculture)

Feb. 7, 1974
Date



ERRATA

Errors appearing in A Proposal - GILA WILDERNESS are listed below in chronological order, and each error is underlined. Replacements to correct errors are given in quotations:

Page

- iii Line 1, paragraph 1 - change 86,528 to "86,488".
Line 1, paragraph 2 - change 49,450 to "49,490".
Line 2, paragraph 2 - change 1,680 to "1,640".

- 4 Line 5 of Gross Acreage Summary -
change 49,908 to "49,948".
Line 6 of Gross Acreage Summary -
change 1,680 to "1,640".

NOTE: These changes do not affect the proposed wilderness acreage. They correct a 40 acre error in balance of proposed wilderness acreage between Gila Primitive and Gila Wilderness.

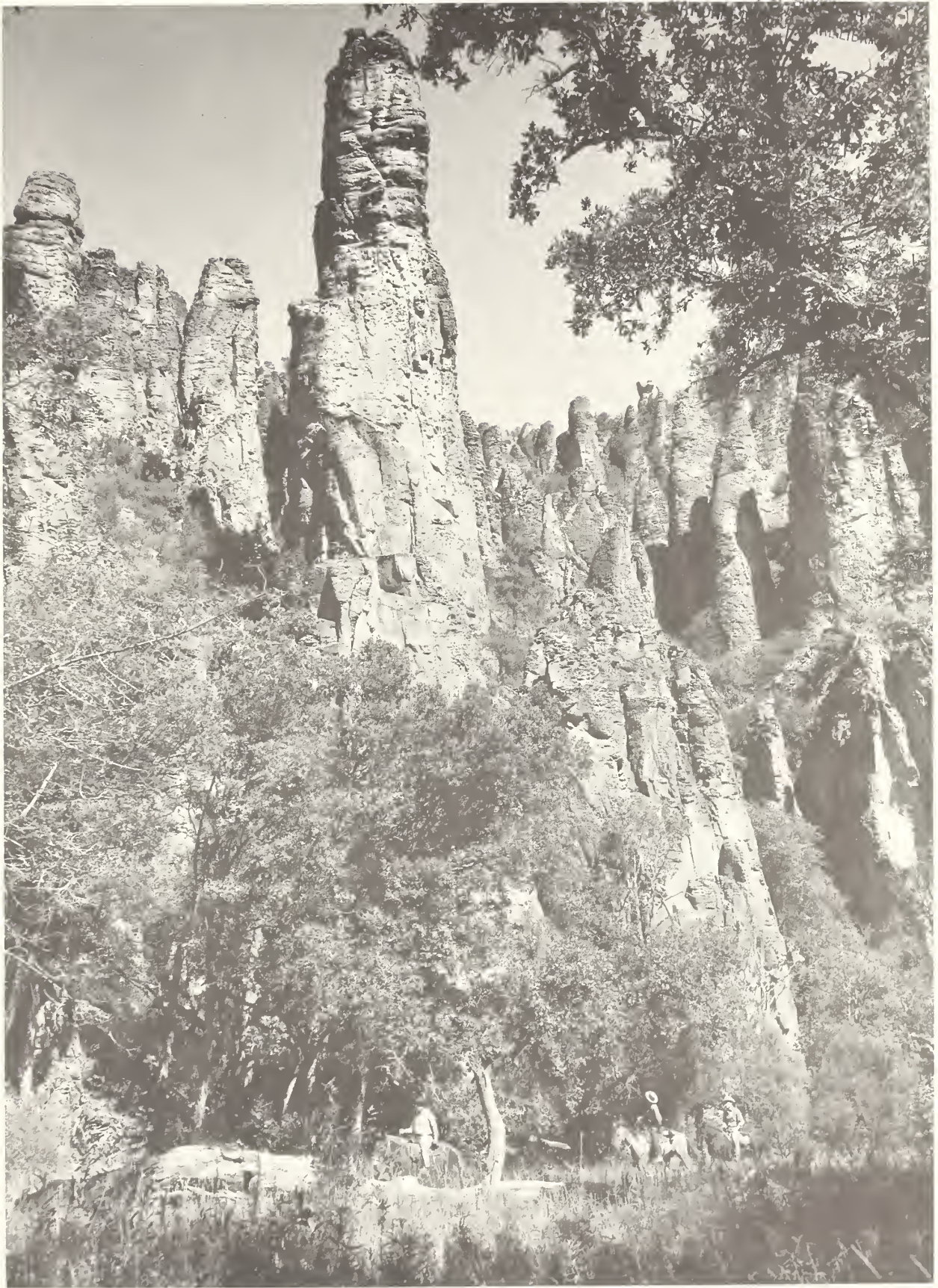


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SUMMARY

This proposal is a result of field studies by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and from consideration of recommendations received from government agencies and interested groups and individuals during time periods specified by the Wilderness Act and Title 36 C.F.R. 293.5. This proposal is unusual because both the Gila Primitive Area, studied for reclassification, and the Gila Wilderness, an existing unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System, are involved. These two areas have been closely associated since the very beginning of Wilderness designation. This proposal combines Primitive Area lands which are suitable for wilderness with the existing Gila Wilderness and suitable lands contiguous to both. It also recommends declassification of both Primitive Area and Wilderness lands no longer suitable for such designation.

Location

The proposed Gila Wilderness is located in southwestern New Mexico, lying west of the Continental Divide in Catron and Grant Counties. It is about 25 miles north of Silver City, 3 miles east of Glenwood, 44 miles south of Reserve, and 22 miles northwest of Mimbres. Access from the east is by New Mexico State Highways 59 and 61 and several secondary Forest roads. From the south and west, State Highways 15, 35, and 293, and U.S. Highway 180 provide access. Several secondary Wilderness access roads intersect with these highways. State Highway 78 and Forest roads provide access from the north.

Natural Resources

The proposed Gila Wilderness offers much true wilderness with many of the more remote areas seldom, if ever, visited by man. Its mosaic of vegetative types, climatic conditions, and topographic features offers a challenge for visitors, enriched by abundant solitude. The variety of plant and animal life, supported by varied ecologic niches, provides a greater opportunity for informal nature study and scientific study than is available in most southwestern Wildernesses. The pleasant blending of natural resources in an untrammelled state, where the mark of man and his activities is relatively obscure, makes this area worthy of perpetuation as Wilderness.

Natural resources of those areas of land which are at issue in this proposal are described herein. Much of the area of the Gila Wilderness would not be affected. Natural resources of that land have not been quantified and are not discussed here since these lands are already a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and, therefore, not subject to manipulation or modification hereby.

Forest cover of the proposed Wilderness includes limited areas of spruce, fir, pine, and aspen at elevations above 8,000 feet. The ponderosa pine type, occupying moist canyon bottoms, slopes, and benches, is scattered through portions of the area proposed as Wilderness at elevations between 7,000 and 8,500 feet. Other vegetative types generally occurring at lower elevations are pinyon-juniper woodland, brush, canyon hardwoods, open meadow, and open grasslands. Pinyon-juniper is the most common vegetative type covering over half of the area proposed as Wilderness. Principal tree species are Engelmann spruce, corkbark fir, quaking aspen, Douglas-fir,

white fir, southwestern white pine, ponderosa pine, pinyon pine, alligator juniper, silverleaf oak, Emory oak, Gambel oak, narrowleaf cottonwood, inland boxelder, Arizona sycamore, and Arizona walnut.

Forest types supporting trees that would have commercial timber value outside of wilderness are found on 46,834 acres of the area proposed as Wilderness. This acreage supports an estimated 101.2 million board feet of wood fiber. Of this amount, 35.6 million board feet on 18,628 acres would be operable or accessible for harvest were it not classified as Wilderness.

Over half of the proposed Wilderness was retired from grazing by domestic livestock prior to 1951. The area proposed as Wilderness whereon cattle graze contains portions of 24 grazing allotments. An estimated total of 925 head of cattle use this area, with seasons of use yearlong on 19 of the allotments, and ranging from 2-1/2 to 8 months on the other 5 allotments. Many of the allotments contain land areas with as much as 75 percent or more not suitable for grazing. Range management plans are geared to the land suitable for grazing to minimize the impact of cattle grazing on the unsuitable range and upon the wilderness resource.



An impressive array of wildlife species live within the area during all or portions of the year. Big game inhabitants are elk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, black bear, Merriam's turkey, peccary, and mountain lion. A great variety of smaller game animals and other mammals, songbirds, land and water birds, and at least 50 species of reptiles and amphibians live within the area proposed as Wilderness.

Water produced or shed from the area proposed as Wilderness is of major importance to both downstream users and visitors to the area. Average annual surface runoff from the entire proposed Wilderness, including the existing Gila Wilderness, is estimated to be 85,000 acre-feet. About 20,000 acre-feet of this amount originate from land in this proposal that is not designated Wilderness. Wilderness classification would have little effect on water yield improvement since possibilities are extremely limited by rugged topography and shallow soils.

A water storage reservoir that would be created by the construction of Hooker Dam, downstream from the proposed Wilderness on the Gila River, as a part of the Central Arizona Project of the Bureau of Reclamation, would affect the proposed Wilderness. Less than 600 acres of the proposed Wilderness along the lower stream bottoms of Turkey Creek and the Gila River would probably be inundated.

The proposed Wilderness is outstandingly suited for primitive forms of visitor use. Activities such as fishing, camping, nature study, enjoyment of solitude, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting are commonly practiced within this area. The apparent renewed interest of Americans in experiencing once again the rich heritage of wilderness and enjoying a wilderness environment and its associated solitude, spiritual awareness, and natural beauty accounts for many hours spent by visitors engaged in other activities.

Limited portions of the area proposed as Wilderness along the western and southwestern edges and in the vicinity of Alum Mountain-Copperas Canyon have better than average possibilities for base and precious metal deposits and fluorspar. An additional potential is represented by the possibility of concealed deposits beneath the surface volcanic rock. However, more than 95 percent of the proposed Wilderness lacks evidence of important mineral resource potential in the exposed rock.

Distinguishing Characteristics

The Mogollon Mountains cross the western half of the proposed Wilderness in a northwesterly-southeasterly direction. Included are many high peaks, with 10,895-foot Whitewater Baldy the highest point. West of the Mogollons, extremely rough country prevails, cut by deep, steep-walled canyons. Elevation drops from the crest of the Mogollons to 4,800 feet where the Gila River leaves the proposed Wilderness. East of the Mogollon Mountains are the West, Middle, and East Forks of the Gila River, nestled in deep canyons and fed by many tributary streams. North and east of the confluence of the three river forks, the country fans out into many canyons and sharp ridges. These are, in places, separated by more gentle, rolling topography, including a limited amount of broad open country.

Somewhat unique to the proposed Wilderness are the volcanic rock escarpments, pinnacles, and spires along major drainages, and the largest stand of virgin ponderosa pine in the world. Other geologic features such as talus slopes, volcanic dikes, and other unusual rock formations add to the enchantment of the area.

From the Canadian Life Zone at higher elevations through Upper Sonoran Life Zone at lower elevations, there are varied ecologic niches within each, generally associated with differences in climate, topography, and aspect. Diverse climatic conditions exist during most seasons of the year due to the wide range of elevations and aspects. Average maximum summer temperatures vary from the mid-90's at lower elevations to less than 80 degrees at higher elevations, with average winter minimums being 10 degrees above zero at lower elevations and 20 degrees below zero at the highest elevations. Annual precipitation ranges from 14 inches in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone to 32 inches in the Canadian Life Zone. Severe thunderstorm activity is typical in July and August, preceded by a dry season in May and June. High elevation country is usually snow-covered during the winter months.

This rugged country called “Sierra del Gila” by the early Spanish conquistadores was home for many prehistoric Indians. Evidence of their occupation remains today in the scattered pit houses, cliff dwellings, and pueblo ruins. The area later provided sanctuary for nomadic Apache Indian tribes during their many years of warfare against the settlers.

Proximity to Population and to Other Wildernesses

Approximately 3 million people living within Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas are within a day’s drive of the proposed Wilderness. A high percentage of these persons are urban dwellers in cities such as Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Amarillo, Lubbock, and El Paso, Texas.

There are five National Forest Wildernesses in New Mexico, containing a total of 676,168 acres of National Forest land. This figure includes the existing Gila Wilderness, largest of the five. One National Forest Primitive Area, besides the Gila Primitive Area, is wholly in New Mexico; and a portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area also lies in New Mexico. In relation to this proposed Wilderness, the Black Range Primitive Area is 11 miles to the east, and the Blue Range Primitive Area is 17 miles to the northwest. These Primitive Areas have already been previously proposed to Congress by the President for reclassification as Wilderness. The Aldo Leopold Wilderness proposal, utilizing Black Range Primitive Area acreage with suitable Wilderness characteristics, covers 188,095 acres of National Forest land entirely within the Gila National Forest. The bulk of the proposed Blue Range Wilderness is within Arizona, but 13,488 acres are in New Mexico.

The 8,500-acre Salt Creek Wilderness is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior. Two other areas have been recommended by the Department of the Interior for Wilderness designation. These are a 32,500-acre portion of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and 30,210 acres of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, managed by the National Park Service.

Gross Acreage Summary

Existing Gila Wilderness*	429,738
Gila Primitive Area*	136,894
Total Classified	566,632
27 Additions, A through S and (a) through (h)	29,120
17 Primitive Area Exclusions 1 through 17	49,908
15 Wilderness Exclusions 1-1 through 15-15	1,680
Net Change	-22,468
Proposed Gila Wilderness Gross Acreage	544,164

* Acreage computed from new and more accurate base maps and status records; differs from previous official record acreages.

THE AREA

General Description

During the period of early settlement of southwestern New Mexico in the late 1800's and through the first two decades of the 1900's, little activity occurred that permanently damaged the wilderness quality of this untamed country. During his early career with the Forest Service in the Southwest, Aldo Leopold had the foresight to realize that areas such as the Gila country would not remain forever unspoiled by man. As a result of his efforts, the Gila Wilderness became the first area to receive "Wilderness" designation. Included as a part of this early Wilderness, which was designated on June 3, 1924, were lands later classified as the Gila and Black Range Primitive Areas on May 8, 1933, under Secretary of Agriculture's Regulation L-20. Lands east of the North Star Mesa Road corridor (later designated as State Highway 61) became the Black Range Primitive Area. The Gila Primitive Area, west of the North Star Mesa Road, retained this status until April 4, 1938, when the Gila Wilderness designation was again revived, forming a 566,474 net acre area.

Declassification of 5,150 acres of Wilderness, where the Gila River leaves the area, was approved during 1944 to allow development of fluorspar deposits critically needed during World War II. Reclassification of the remaining area under Secretary of Agriculture's Regulation U-1 was approved following hearings in 1953. This reclassification resulted in the separate Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Area with boundaries much the same as they are today. Minor subsequent changes deleted the northern half of State Highway 15 corridor and lands added to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

Prior to passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, National Forest lands preserved in their natural state were classified as Wilderness, Wild, or Primitive under authority of Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture. With passage of the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964, Wild Areas and Wildernesses, including the 433,690-acre Gila Wilderness, were made a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. A part of this same Act directed study of National Forest Primitive Areas to determine their suitability or unsuitability for inclusion in the Wilderness System.

The Gila Primitive Area covers land adjacent to the northern, southwestern, southern, and eastern edges of the Gila Wilderness, and is composed of 11 separate tracts of land, with the largest being south of the Wilderness boundary and between the corridors of State Highways 15, 35, and 61. Due to the close relationship and the contiguity between the Primitive Area and Wilderness, both areas are logically involved in this proposal. The proposal contains recommended changes that affect the Primitive Area, the Wilderness, and the lands contiguous to either or both. This proposal includes recommendations for addition of Gila Primitive Area lands and contiguous lands, found suitable for wilderness, to the present Gila Wilderness. To accommodate these additions and to obtain a proposed Wilderness boundary on identifiable topographic features rather than unnatural land lines, alteration of the Gila Wilderness boundary is also recommended.

Appendix A gives a detailed description of the recommended Gila Wilderness boundary as shown on the map on page 26. The adjustments and acreages are shown in Table 1:

TABLE I

	Private	Acres National Forest	Total
*Previously Reported Gila Wilderness	266	433,690	433,916
*Previously Reported Gila Primitive Area	2,151	130,637	132,788
Classified Area Total	2,377	564,327	566,704
**Corrected Gila Wilderness	232	429,506	429,738
**Corrected Gila Primitive Area	916	135,978	136,894
Corrected Classified Area Total	1,148	565,484	566,632
Proposed Additions			
A	0	4,422	4,422
B	0	142	142
C	0	27	27
D	0	148	148
E	0	308	308
F	0	245	245
G	0	3,188	3,188
H	0	416	416
I	0	416	416
J	0	320	320
K	0	1,178	1,178
L	0	1,377	1,377
M	0	585	585
N (20 acres excluded in final proposal)	0	57	57
O (12 acres excluded in final proposal)	0	1,715	1,715
P	0	1,241	1,241
Q	0	256	256
R	0	296	296
S	0	124	124
Additions Proposed After Public Response Analysis			
(a) (2,732 acres Exclusion 5)	0	298	298
(b) (11,174 acres Exclusion 6)	0	0	0
(c) (58 acres Exclusion 7 & 44 acres Exclusion 3-3)	0	0	0
(d)	0	6,643	6,643
(e) (137 acres Exclusion 12 & 40 acres Exclusion 11-11)	0	863	863
(f) (5 acres Exclusion 12-12)	0	480	480
(g) (1,210 acres Exclusion 14)	0	74	74
(h) (845 acres Exclusion 16 plus 80 acres private & 20 acres Exclusion 14-14)	0	4,301	4,301
Plus Total Additions	0	29,120	29,120

Exclusions – Gila Primitive Area

1	0	245	245
2	0	98	98
3	0	408	408
4	62	189	251
5	163	17,487	17,650
6	138	24,963	25,101
7	0	1,524	1,524
8	0	456	456
9	0	109	109
10	0	279	279
11	81	211	292
12	14	243	257
13	0	379	379
14	0	2,360	2,360
15	0	205	205
16	0	292	292
17	0	42	42

Exclusions – Gila Wilderness

1-1	0	10	10
2-2	0	71	71
3-3	0	322	322
4-4	0	3	3
5-5	0	200	200
6-6	0	44	44
7-7	0	697	697
8-8	0	30	30
9-9	0	19	19
10-10	0	31	31
11-11	0	97	97
12-12	0	32	32
13-13	0	18	18
14-14	0	12	12
15-15	0	54	54

Minus Total Exclusion	458	51,130	51,588
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Area of Proposed Gila Wilderness	690	543,474	544,164
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*Acres shown in the National Forest System status report listing classified areas as of June 30, 1972.

**Computed acreage from new and more accurate base maps showing existing boundary refinement and reflecting changes caused by correction of status record errors and acquisition of private lands.

All Gila Primitive Area lands along with existing and proposed Gila Wilderness lands are centrally located within the Gila National Forest in southwestern New Mexico. The Beaverhead, Mimbres, Silver City, Glenwood, Reserve, and Wilderness Ranger Districts each contains portions of the Primitive Area and the existing and proposed Wilderness. All lands involved are within Catron and Grant Counties, and acreage figures for each are shown in Table 2:

TABLE 2

	Gila Primitive Area	Present Gila Wilderness	Additions	Exclusions Wilderness & Primitive Area	Proposed Gila Wilderness
Catron County					
National Forest	48,148	268,510	15,689	18,493	313,854
Private	697	232	0	239	690
Total	48,845	268,742	15,689	18,732	314,544
Grant County					
National Forest	87,830	160,996	13,431	32,637	229,620
Private	219	0	0	219	0
Total	88,049	160,996	13,431	32,856	229,620
Total					
National Forest	135,978	429,506	29,120	51,130	543,474
Private	916	232	0	458	690
Total	136,894	429,738	29,120	51,588	544,164

The proposed Wilderness is located 25 miles north of Silver City, 3 miles east of Glenwood, 44 miles south of Reserve and 22 miles northwest of Mimbres, all of which are within New Mexico. Road access to Wilderness trailheads within a reasonable distance of the proposed Wilderness is available from each of these communities. Access from the east and southeast is via New Mexico State Highways 59 and 61. Southern access routes include New Mexico State Highways 15 and 35 and Forest Road 155 off of State Highway 293. Forest Roads 754, 147, 146, and 95 provide access leading from U.S. Highway 180, located west of the proposed Wilderness. Several other unimproved routes with limited access serve western trailheads. New Mexico State Highway 78 and Forest Roads 141 and 142 provide access to the north side of the proposed Wilderness.

The Gila Wilderness would be the largest in the Southwestern Region. The proposed Aldo Leopold Wilderness, located on the Gila National Forest a short distance to the east of the proposed Gila Wilderness, would be the second largest in the State of New Mexico. The two areas together would cover a total of 731,569 acres of National Forest land. This figure is 15,581 acres less than the existing acreage of the Gila Wilderness and the Gila and Black Range Primitive Areas. These two proposed Wildernesses would account for over two-thirds of Wilderness now designated in New Mexico.

Geology and Soils

The Gila Wilderness and Primitive Area and lands within this proposal are geologically a part of the Datil Volcanic Area which covers roughly 10,000 square miles of the southeastern corner of the Colorado Plateau's structural province. This mountainous part of the Volcanic Area is bounded by structural blocks formed by faulting during the later portion of the volcanic period occurring 20 to 40 million years ago. The exposed rocks of the proposed Wilderness are almost exclusively volcanic igneous rocks. The aggregate exposed thickness of lava flows, ash-flow tuffs, and shallow

intrusive bodies is at least 6,000 feet. Older volcanic rocks, exposed locally along the southwestern edge of the proposed Wilderness, indicate that older rock of Laramide age may underlie part of the area. Older sedimentary rock such as that exposed around Silver City may underlie all or part of the proposed Wilderness at greater depths. Stream deposited sediments generally known as Gila Conglomerate cover some eastern parts of the proposed Wilderness.

The volcanic sequence which occurred in this area is similar to other locations in the Datil volcanic field. Early volcanoes produced andesitic lavas and breccias exposed in the southern and eastern portions of the proposed Wilderness. Subsequent eruptions deposited widespread sheets of rhyolitic ash-flow tuff frequently welded together where sufficient heat existed. These deposits form the spectacular cliffs and pinnacles, exposed through geologic erosion along many of the canyon faces. Altered eruptions formed flow banded rhyolite heaped up around vents forming Granite Peak, Sheridan Mountain, Holt Mountain, and other peaks. Subsequent basaltic eruptions built extensive shield volcanoes such as Black Mountain.

Voids below the surface caused by rapid eruption collapsed in two areas forming large depressions called calderas. Resurgence of the largest of the two, Bursum Caldera, formed the highest parts of the Mogollon Mountains.

Soil groups within the proposed Wilderness are commonly derived from volcanic and intrusive igneous rock parent materials. Individual soils with similar characteristics can be placed in eight major groupings. Most groups rate low in herbage and tree production. Erosion hazard and erodibility are moderate at the very best and are classed as high for most pinyon-juniper areas. Runoff potential ranges from moderate to high, while revegetation potential and infiltration and permeability rates are moderate to low. Natural geologic erosion is widespread in several soil groupings, but man-caused erosion is not an extensive problem.

Principal Topographic and Scenic Features

The Mogollon Mountains cross the western half of the proposed Wilderness in a northwest-southeast direction. They include most of the high peaks including 10,895-foot Whitewater Baldy. Extremely rugged topography, cut by deep canyons with steep slopes, prevails west of the Mogollons. The deep canyon of the Gila River exits the area at 4,800 feet elevation, west of the Mogollon Mountains, and is the lowest point within the proposed Wilderness.

East of the Mogollon Mountains are the West, Middle, and East Forks of the Gila River, nestled in deep canyons and fed by many tributary streams. Both the Middle Fork and the East Fork originate outside of the proposed Wilderness and flow into the area. The assortment of features between the river canyons east of the Mogollons include the Diablo and Jerky Mountains, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer timbered slopes, high mesas, and impressive rock formations.

North and east of the Gila River Forks, the country fans out into many canyons and sharp ridges interspersed with more gentle topography including a limited amount of broad open country. The southeast corner of the proposed Wilderness, composed entirely of Primitive Area and contiguous lands, contains no major mountain peaks, but the country is sharply divided by canyons and high ridges.

Throughout the area, "box canyons," rock escarpments, and talus slopes add to the scenic beauty. These are complemented by varied vegetative types ranging from the spruce-fir of the Canadian Life Zone down through the Upper Sonoran Life Zone riparian vegetation along lower

canyon bottoms. Intersecting lower slopes and mesas support ponderosa pine stands or pinyon-juniper woodland, depending upon aspect and elevation. Other vegetative types such as aspen, canyon hardwoods, upland meadows, and broad open grass areas add variety to the magnificent scenery of this area.

The Gila River and its headwater tributaries drain over 90 percent of the total land area. The far western tip of the proposed Wilderness drains via tributary streams into the San Francisco River west of Glenwood and outside of the area, and eventually into the Gila River in Arizona.

Climate

Climatic conditions are diverse during each particular season of the year due to the wide range of elevations and aspects of the proposed Wilderness. Portions of the area at lower elevations are suitable for visitor use during all seasons of the year.

Average annual precipitation at low elevations is 14 inches with seasonal distribution being 6 inches from October through April and 8 inches during the remainder of the year. At the highest elevations, annual precipitation averages 32 inches with equal amounts during winter and summer. Severe thunderstorms are typical during July and August, preceded by a dry season during May and June. Higher elevations are usually snow-covered from December through March.

Maximum summer temperatures range from mid-90's at lower elevations to less than 80 degrees high in the mountains. Below zero minimum temperatures are common in the winter at elevations above 10,000 feet, but seldom fall below zero at lower elevations. Cold nights are common at all elevations during the summer.

RESOURCES

Wilderness

The high quality and value of the wilderness resource is the most outstanding asset of this area. The wilderness attributes of the existing Gila Wilderness have long been recognized as outstanding. One may find solitude throughout the area with large remote segments seldom, if ever, visited by man. The many different vegetative types, topographic features, and climatic conditions encountered by visitors offer a unique and challenging experience for those seeking escape from the complications of urban life and modern-day civilization. The large variety of plant and animal life supported by different natural ecologic niches provide unlimited opportunities for informal nature study or more formal scientific study.

Adjoining areas may be noted for other resource production and use such as timber production, ability to support livestock grazing, abundance of economic mineral resources, and excellent opportunities for developed recreation. However, the proposed Wilderness offers optimum value for present and future generations through management as Wilderness.

The pleasant blending of natural resources in an untrammelled state, where the mark of man is relatively obscure, is worthy of perpetuation as Wilderness. Psychological and social returns in the form of physical and spiritual renewal far outweigh the combined consumptive resource value that could otherwise be realized from this area.

Visitor Use

The proposed Gila Wilderness is within a day's drive of over 3 million people. Over half of these persons live in major population centers such as Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Amarillo, Lubbock, and El Paso, Texas. Southwestern population centers are at lower elevations than the proposed Wilderness, and they are generally more arid. Urban dwellers often seek relief from their surroundings through occasional trips to mountainous areas such as the Gila. The psychological and social need for solitude, brought about by accelerated mechanization of urban living, has caused steep yearly increases in the number of persons seeking the pleasures of wilderness outings. This trend is expected to continue, meeting or exceeding projections of wilderness use. It is also a recognized fact that the use of developed recreation sites will also continue to increase at a very rapid rate. Fortunately, there is not a shortage of available sites for expansion of developed recreation in the Southwest.

An estimated 38,400 visits were made to the Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Area during 1972. About one-third of these visits involved total or major expenditure of time within the Gila Primitive Area or contiguous unclassified lands recommended herein for Wilderness designation.

Trail access to areas proposed for Wilderness is generally good. The area has no developed recreation sites, and none are necessary for either protection of the wilderness resource or control of visitor use. Recreation improvements outside of the area proposed as Wilderness exist at 17 trail entrance points. Facilities at these locations range from a minimum of trash depository and parking improvements to developed campground units. The developed campgrounds also serve nonwilderness visitors.

The area suitable for Wilderness contains scattered terrain suitable for recreation development. For most of these sites, the development of vehicular access in lieu of Wilderness designation would cause great environmental damage. However, there are several sites included within this proposal, such as Brannon Park, the Loco Mountain Area, and "bench" country along the Gila River East Fork, that would otherwise be suitable for recreation development.

The most prominent use activities are fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. Enjoying a wilderness environment and the abundant natural beauty of this rugged area accounts for many of the hours spent by visitors engaged in these other activities. A fair amount of visitor use is by large groups of both backpackers and horseback riders. Distribution of use is somewhat limited by the existing trail system and the availability of potable water. Floating the Gila River in rubber rafts, tire tubes, and a variety of other nonmotorized small craft is becoming increasingly popular.

Visitor use occurs to some degree during all months of the year. Winter use is light and generally limited to lower elevations along river bottoms. The primary season of use runs from May through November, with peak use occurring during the summer months.

Wildlife

The many species of wildlife living within the proposed Wilderness provide scientific, recreational, and esthetic value, besides providing an opportunity for nature study at its finest. Differences in elevation, vegetative types, and climate create year-round or seasonal habitat for an unusually large array of wildlife species. Big game species represented within the area are elk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope, black bear, Merriam's turkey, peccary, and mountain lion.



Merriam elk originally inhabiting the area became extinct during the early 1900's. The present elk herd has been derived from stock acquired from a northern source and released outside of the classified areas by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in 1954 and 1956. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep inhabit only western portions of the proposed Wilderness. These animals were released by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish outside of the proposed Wilderness. Original bighorn sheep became extinct during the early 1900's. Deer and wild turkey are the most common big game species, even though deer populations of both species are relatively low at this time. Antelope and peccary inhabit the lower foothill country of the proposed Wilderness. Bear and mountain lion are the most elusive big game species. They range throughout most of the proposed Wilderness, but are seldom sighted by visitors.

A large variety of small game animals and upland game birds make the area their home. These include tassel-eared squirrel, Arizona gray squirrel, desert cottontail, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, two species of quail, dusky grouse, and several species of duck. Predators, besides the bear and mountain lion, include bobcat, gray fox, coyote, raccoon, ringtail cat, badger, hog-nosed skunk, striped skunk, bald eagle, golden eagle, and at least two dozen species of hawks, falcons, and owls. Many other small mammals, songbirds, land and water birds, and at least 50 species of reptiles and amphibians live within the area proposed as Wilderness.

Many species of resident wildlife once considered as common are now classified as rare, endangered, or peripheral endangered. Spotted bat, American peregrine falcon, and greater sandhill crane all share a rare classification, while Mexican duck, bald eagle, northern gray hawk, and northern black hawk are either endangered or peripheral endangered. Other species of wildlife not commonly sighted within the proposed Wilderness may eventually be placed in one of the above three categories, but now have an undetermined status.

One species of endangered fish of the minnow family, Gila top minnow, could possibly occupy portions of suitable habitat along the lower Gila River. A second endangered species, the Gila trout, was once common in the area. These trout, surviving naturally within two isolated stream segments of the existing Gila Wilderness, have been implanted in Sheep Corral Canyon where acceptable habitat extends into the area proposed as Wilderness. In addition, the meda spinedace and loach minnow are considered to be unique species, and could occupy suitable habitat along the lower reaches of the Gila River.

Many species of rare or endangered wildlife such as the bald eagle and American peregrine falcon are native to the proposed Wilderness and require wilderness habitat to exist. Future management of such species would be accomplished within the constraints of the Wilderness Act and the appropriate Code of Federal Regulations. Declassification of certain portions, as recommended, would not threaten any of these species.

Some of the fishing streams within the proposed Wilderness are all three forks of the Gila River, Turkey Creek, Mogollon Creek, Rain Creek, Whitewater Creek, South Fork of Whitewater Creek, White Creek, Iron Creek, Willow Creek, Gilita Creek, Black Canyon, Little Creek, and Sapillo Creek. There are no lakes within the proposed Wilderness. A few of the streams have native trout, while others are stocked by primitive means with fingerlings and fry of brown and rainbow trout by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. State hunting and fishing regulations apply within the area.

Water

The generally arid climate of the Southwest has caused its residents and visitors, from prehistoric settlement forward, to depend heavily on mountainous areas such as the proposed Wilderness for water. The quantity and quality of water yield is important to both downstream users in New Mexico and Arizona and to those that venture into the area. Estimated average annual surface runoff from the proposed Wilderness is 85,000 acre-feet, with about 20,000 acre-feet of this amount originating on lands without Wilderness designation that are so recommended herein.

Water quality associated with surface runoff is generally good. Localized high mineral content of spring water, especially in the area of hot spring activity along the forks of the Gila River, is not a significant problem affecting designation of Wilderness. Locally heavy summer rains sometimes cause flooding and subsequent silt loads, but this situation is only temporary in nature. Portions of the proposed Wilderness receive an inflow of water from streams outside the area. This situation creates water quality problems in some instances where man's activities along these outside streams have caused pollution of the water. Opportunities for water yield improvement are severely limited by the ruggedness of the topography, steep slopes, large areas of bare rock, and thin soils.

The streams and attractive settings through which they flow are inviting to visitors, some of whom commonly associate a wilderness experience with spending at least a portion of their visit near water. Water resources of the area are essential for support of resource uses and activities such as visitor use, wildlife, and the grazing of cattle.

The possibility of water storage projects within the proposed Wilderness exists along the Gila River. Projects of this type are within the scope of the Wilderness Act. Dam construction within the proposed Wilderness is not foreseen. The Hooker Dam site on the Gila River is 7 river miles downstream from the proposed Wilderness boundary. It is a part of the Central Arizona Project authorized by Public Law 90-537. Construction of Hooker Dam has not been funded, and alternate sites further down river from the proposed Wilderness remain as viable alternatives.

Construction of a dam at the Hooker site would create a reservoir that would inundate portions of the proposed Wilderness along the Gila River and Turkey Creek. This is shown on detail map, page 48. It is estimated that about 520 acres of the proposed Wilderness would be flooded, provided the dam is built at the Hooker Site to proposed specifications, and further provided that the reservoir would fill to maximum level. The Forest Service has given full consideration to this possibility, although an exclusion of acreage to accommodate the possible reservoir has not been recommended. Water conservation and maximum flood control pool levels of the proposed dam are too uncertain at this time to provide a basis for Wilderness exclusion. Public enjoyment of these lands, as Wilderness, would be prematurely diminished by nonwilderness designation. Even though the Central Arizona Project has been approved, the possibility exists that the Hooker site would not be used. In this event, exclusion of those lands would represent a loss of wilderness for no just purpose. Exclusion of lands from the proposed Wilderness could not be classed as necessary for physical accommodation of the reservoir project, since inundation of Wilderness lands by water conservation projects is within the scope of Sec. 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act. Affected lands could be either excluded from the Wilderness at the time the project is undertaken, or they could be allowed to become inundated and remain as Wilderness. The Wilderness reservoir portion would be managed as Wilderness with no motor powered vessels allowed. This could be accomplished by buoying off the Wilderness portion of the reservoir coupled with signing and patrolling to insure respect of this restriction.

Minerals

Most of the "Gila Country" was examined by early prospectors despite its ruggedness and limited access. Unrefined methods of mineral location used by these prospectors probably hampered discovery of minerals that might exist below thick layers of volcanic rock. This 20-40 million year old rock covers all of the area proposed as Wilderness, with over 6,000 feet exposed and an unknown thickness lying below.

Past prospecting and mining activities have occurred at scattered locations within the area. Generally, these activities have been associated with fracture systems and other areas of geologic alteration. Only a limited amount of this activity occurred within the area proposed as Wilderness, and there is no record of value of ore produced. The produced tonnages, mentioned in the U.S. Geological Survey -- U.S. Bureau of Mines statement, are mostly from excluded portions of Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Area.

Mining operations centered around the town of Mogollon, a few miles northwest of the proposed Wilderness, were the most active. Gold, silver, and other minerals totaling about 25 million dollars were produced; but the mining district is no longer active. Scattered along the southwestern front of the proposed Wilderness, from Mogollon to the Gila River, are clusters of claims associated with faulting and other forms of geologic alteration. Little more than prospecting was done at most locations. There are no active mining operations within the proposed Wilderness along this belt of past activity, although there are old tunnels and shafts at several locations. There are several active areas of prospecting and/or mining located outside of the

proposed Wilderness boundary. Fluorspur is, in most cases, the main mineral attraction, along with associated base and precious metal ores. Areas of extensively altered rock, in the vicinity of Alum Mountain and Copperas Canyon, have been included within the proposed Wilderness. Alum and clay were mined at these locations, but recent activity does not exist. Patented mining claims centered on areas of mineralized rock in the Big Dry, Spider, and Spruce Creeks and in the Haystack Mountain area have produced ore, but these areas are not active now.

An on-the-ground mineral examination of the Gila Wilderness, Gila Primitive Area, and surrounding study areas, aggregating about 970 square miles, was made by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines between 1968 and 1971. Their report was made available to the public prior to the Wilderness Proposal Public Hearings in December 1972. A summary of the minerals statement presented at the hearings by the two agencies is given below:

The mineral resource potential of the study area has been appraised on the basis of its regional and local geologic setting, geochemical and geophysical data, and sampling of mines and prospects in the light of past mineral exploration and production. Over 500 samples from mines and prospects were assayed for their metal contents, and more than 2,500 geochemical samples were analyzed for trace elements.

Nearly three thousand mining claims have been located on veins and hydrothermally altered or mineralized rocks in and near the Primitive Area and Wilderness, mainly along the west and southwest boundaries of the present Gila Wilderness, and in the Alum Mountain-Copperas Canyon area. Sixteen of the mining claims are patented, and there are two patented mill sites. Of the patented claims, 10 are within the present Wilderness, 1 is in the Primitive Area, and 5 are within one mile of the Primitive Area.

Past mineral production from the study area has been small. All except about 250 tons of the 58,700 tons of fluorspar mined has come from just outside the Primitive Area. Other mineral production from the study area includes an estimated 1,000 tons of meerschaum from the Primitive Area, and a few hundred ounces of gold and silver and a few tons each of copper-lead-zinc and tellurium ore from mines scattered along the southwestern border of the present Wilderness. A small tonnage of clay has been mined in Copperas Canyon near the Primitive Area. Small indicated and inferred reserves of copper-lead-zinc-cadmium ore have been calculated for the Uncle John mine within the Wilderness on Big Dry Creek.

Despite the small past mineral production, parts of the study area have a high potential for base and precious metal deposits, in addition to fluorspar. The potential is shown by evidence of hydrothermal alteration and mineralization in veins and larger rock bodies, and by the presence of anomalous concentrations of trace elements in some of the Tertiary volcanic rocks that cover most of the area. An additional potential is represented by the possibility of concealed deposits beneath the surface volcanic rocks, which is greatly enhanced by the occurrence of important metal deposits in a similar geologic environment in the immediately adjacent area.

The mineral potential of the study area, with respect to the evidence shown by surface exposures, is restricted mainly to a zone, along the present boundaries on the west and southwest sides of the Wilderness, from just south of the Mogollon mining district to the Gila Fluorspar district, and in the Alum Mountain-Copperas Canyon

area on the southeast side of the present Wilderness. In addition to these boundary areas, significantly mineralized rocks also occur within the present Wilderness along Big Dry Creek as far as Spider and Spruce Creeks, and in the Haystack and Seventy-four Mountain areas. However, more than 90 percent of the study area lacks evidence of important mineral resource potential in the exposed rocks.

There is no significant potential for mineral fuel resources within the study area, but a zone of thermal springs in the vicinity of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument extends into the Wilderness, and represents a possible geothermal energy resource that is virtually unexplored.

Vegetation

The wide variety of vegetation found within the proposed Wilderness contains several forest types that would be classed as commercial timber lands if not located within classified areas. Spruce-fir occupies limited areas at elevations above 9,500 feet. Major tree species are Engelmann spruce, corkbark fir, alpine fir, and quaking aspen. A few stands of pure aspen are found at approximately the same elevation. Mixed conifer stands occur on moist sites between 8,000 feet and 9,500 feet elevation. Major species of this type are Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, white fir, southwestern white pine, Colorado blue spruce, Engelmann spruce, and quaking aspen. The ponderosa pine type is the most abundant, occurring on a variety of sites including moist canyon bottoms, mountain slopes, broad ridges, and benches between 7,000 feet and 8,500 feet elevation. Most areas of the middle range of this type have pure stands of ponderosa pine. The existing Gila Wilderness is believed to contain the most extensive stands of ponderosa pine under wilderness preservation in the world. However, this type generally occurs as stringers on moist north-facing slopes and in canyon bottoms within the area proposed for addition to the existing Gila Wilderness.

Timber volumes have not been estimated for the existing Gila Wilderness except for the small portion proposed for exclusion. That portion of the Gila Primitive Area suitable as wilderness contains an estimated 34,900 timbered acres. Of this amount, about 14,600 acres, supporting an estimated volume of 25.2 million board feet, would be available for logging without Wilderness designation. The remaining 20,300 timbered acres contain an estimated 46.5 million board feet considered to be inoperable for logging. Proposed contiguous additions contain 17,907 acres with timber. Of this amount, 4,628 acres with 10.4 million board feet of timber are operable for logging. The remaining 13,279 acres contain 29.4 million board feet of inoperable timber. Timber acreages and volumes for Gila Primitive Area lands proposed for declassification are 2,455 acres operable for logging with 5.3 million board feet of timber and 5,028 acres considered inoperable for logging with 9.5 million board feet. The portions of existing Wilderness proposed for exclusion contain a total of 388 timbered acres with 159,000 board feet of timber, all judged to be inoperable for logging. Ponderosa pine is the most common species found and contains over 90 percent of the estimated volume. Other species are spruces, true firs, Douglas-fir, southwestern white pine, and aspen.

Other vegetative types generally occurring at lower elevations are the pinyon-juniper, woodland, brush, canyon hardwoods, open meadow, and large open grass areas. The pinyon-juniper type is the most abundant vegetative type of the proposed Wilderness, occupying large areas on lower canyon slopes and ridges below 7,000 feet in elevation. These stands are most often accompanied by dry site conditions, poor soils, and a high percentage of exposed surface rock. Common species are pinyon pine, alligator juniper, one-seed juniper, net leaf oak, silver leaf oak, and Emory oak. Large areas of brush cover some locations within the pinyon-juniper type. Hardwoods grow in canyon bottoms at lower elevations where sufficient moisture is available. Major species are

narrowleaf cottonwood, several species of willow, Arizona sycamore, inland boxelder, net leaf hackberry, and Arizona walnut. On lower and drier sites, mesquite and Emory oak are additional species. Open meadows, at higher elevations within the timber types and at lower elevations along canyon bottoms, are small in size and cover an insignificant total acreage. Larger open grass areas occupy some of the broad benches and rolling country generally above the slopes leading into the Middle and East Forks of the Gila River. A significant portion of the acreage once occupied by open grass country has undergone successive change, with both juniper and pine becoming established over the years.

Forage

Livestock grazing in southwestern New Mexico and the Gila Country developed rapidly during the late 1800's. Abuse of the range resource occurred during the first several decades of the 1900's, and ranchers and public land administrators learned that the forage resource did not possess unlimited capability for supporting use. Excessive populations of deer, peaking during the late 1930's, compounded overuse of forage and browse species upon which livestock were also



dependent. Construction of range improvements for better distribution of forage use, reductions in livestock numbers using the range, and better management systems have all helped to steadily improve range condition.

Prior to 1951 over half of the proposed Wilderness, largely within the existing Gila Wilderness but partially within the area proposed as Wilderness, was retired from grazing by domestic livestock. The remainder of the area proposed as Wilderness contains portions of 24 cattle grazing allotments with obligation for grazing use. Suitability for livestock grazing varies considerably between allotments, with some having land areas of 75 percent or more of nonsuitable range land. An estimated total of 925 head of cattle use the area proposed as Wilderness. Season of use for 19 of the 24 allotments is yearlong, while the remainder have seasons ranging from 2-1/2 to 8 months. There are 24 grazing permits in effect authorizing use on the 24 allotments, with several of these permits being held by more than one person. None of the permittees live or have their ranch headquarters within the proposed Wilderness. Most of these permittees are residents of Catron or Grant Counties. However, there are two from other locations in New Mexico, and six reside out of state in either Texas or Arizona.

Range improvements within the area proposed as Wilderness include 75 miles of fence, 12 corrals, 24 earthen dam stock tanks, 8 developed springs, and 10 rock masonry dam water developments. Range management plans are geared to minimize the impact of cattle grazing on the wilderness resource. Additional or replacement structural improvements essential for livestock management will be designed for maximum compatibility with the wilderness character of the land.

Grazing use shall be permitted to continue where it is compatible with the Wilderness and the ability of the forage resource to sustain itself. Management will be within the scope of the Wilderness Act and appropriate Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Management considerations are restricted to those portions of the Gila Primitive Area and additions of contiguous land recommended for Wilderness designation. Management considerations for existing Gila Wilderness lands not involved in this reclassification are not included.

Structures and Activities

There are no administrative or fire detection improvements within the area, and none are needed for administration or protection of this area as Wilderness. The Black Mountain Lookout and associated improvements are partially within the existing Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Area where the boundaries of these two areas join near the northeast corner of the proposed Wilderness. All improvements are excluded from the proposed Wilderness. Other structures exist at several locations within the area recommended for Wilderness. The ruins of several old ranch buildings along the upper Middle Fork of the Gila River have no historical significance and they will be allowed to deteriorate naturally.

Several abandoned improvements, once used in connection with prospecting or mining activities, exist at several locations. The most prominent of these is an abandoned miner's cabin on Big Dry Creek. Such improvements, if determined to no longer have value to mining claimants, will be removed.

The number of range improvements and other miscellaneous developments installed by the Forest Service, but no longer necessary or functional for protection of the wilderness resource, has not been fully assessed. Many fences, corrals, and other structures can be removed or left to deteriorate naturally.

There are five essential helispots in the area. Additional permanent helispots are not planned. Natural openings capable of accommodating helicopter landing for helitack suppression of fires are relatively abundant within the area proposed for Wilderness.

There are 79 miles of developed trails in the area. Many of these are between trailheads and the existing Wilderness trail system. Several of the trails now "dead-end" but are planned for "through" construction at a later date.

Through the years, many nonsystem roads or jeep trails became established within the Gila Primitive Area. At least one of these, known as the Military Road, has existed since the late 1800's. Several others predate the designation of the Gila Wilderness in 1924. Others were established in the 1930's as primitive travel routes, then allowed under Secretary of Agriculture Regulation L-20. More recent signs of vehicular travel resulted from use of mechanized equipment to construct and maintain improvements such as earthen dam stock tanks. Much of the Primitive Area boundary has been violated by motorized vehicles where the topography is gentle enough to allow passage of the vehicles. These lands with existing roads and other substantial evidence of man's activities have been excluded from this proposal and are recommended for declassification.

Insects and Diseases

There is some potential for serious insect or disease problems within the area. Should an epidemic occur within the Wilderness, it would be treated only if resource values outside of the area were threatened, or if elimination of plant or animal species indigenous to the Wilderness becomes a possibility.

Fire

During the 1960's, an annual average of less than 15 fires occurred in the area proposed for wilderness designation. The occurrence of man-caused fires averages less than one per year.

Fuel types, topography, and general aspect are such that fires can become difficult to control in a fairly short time during dry seasons. The absence of large fire within the area in the past 10 years is attributed to increased fire suppression efficiency, and does not preclude the possibility of a large fire. Helitack and smokejumper manning of fires within the proposed Wilderness will be continued using base installations on lands surrounding the proposed Wilderness.

The role of natural fire will be determined, and fire will be allowed to restore ecological balances insofar as possible. Man-caused fires and fires that threaten natural resources, life, and property outside the area will be aggressively controlled.

Private Land

The following private land, totaling 458 acres, is within that part of the Primitive Area that is proposed as Wilderness:

a. 18 acres of the included portion of the S½SE¼ of section 2, T. 12 S., R. 13 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, owned by John S. Hamilton, Jr.

b. 120 acres located in the N½SE¼ and SW¼SE¼ of section 10, T. 12 S., R. 13 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, owned by John S. Hamilton, Jr.

c. 160 acres located in the NW¼NE¼, E½NW¼, and SW¼NW¼ of section 11, T. 12 S., R. 13 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, owned by John S. Hamilton, Jr.

d. 40 acres located in the NW¼NE¼ of section 15, T. 12 S., R. 13 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, owned by John S. Hamilton, Jr.

e. 80 acres — Lots 19 and 20 of section 4, T. 11 S., R. 14 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, owned by John S. Hamilton, Jr.

All five of these tracts are in the process of being acquired by the United States. After acquisition, they would be managed as wilderness.

f. 40 acres located in the SE¼SE¼ of section 21, T. 12 S., R. 13 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian.

An additional 232 acres of private land are included within the existing Gila Wilderness. All but a 40-acre tract are patented mining claims. The 40-acre tract, located in the SW¼NW¼ of section 15, T. 11 S., R. 14 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, is owned by John S. Hamilton, Jr., and is being acquired by the United States.

None of the 690 acres of private land within the proposed Wilderness have resident occupancy, and none of the present owners use motor vehicles across the Wilderness or Primitive Area for access to these lands. Consummation of the land exchange with John Hamilton would reduce total private lands within the area to 232 acres.

Other Considerations

There are no existing or planned recreation developments within the area. Neither are there any special-use permits encumbering any of the area.

The National Register of Historic Places includes no registered sites within the proposed Wilderness. The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument is located adjacent to and outside of the proposed Wilderness.

There are many prehistoric Indian ruins within the proposed Wilderness. Cliff dwellings, pit houses, pueblo ruins, and pictographs are abundant. These are protected by the American Antiquities Act. This law prohibits theft, injury, or destruction of historic or prehistoric ruins or objects of antiquity regardless of whether they are located at ruins or at scattered locations. Archeological sites within the proposed Wilderness are generally unexcavated and no excavation projects are anticipated.

Remains of settlers' cabins and graves exist at several locations. They will be allowed to deteriorate naturally. Grave markers will, however, be given protection against obliteration.

Boundary

Much of the existing Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Area boundaries follow legal subdivision lines and other unnatural courses rather than natural topographic features. Many of these unsurveyed legal subdivision lines have never been accurately located on the ground. This situation has led to inadvertent trespass. Other portions of boundary crossing more gentle country through open grassland, pinyon-juniper, or ponderosa pine country have been subject to penetration by motorized vehicles.

Delineation of a suitable boundary located on topographic features, providing essential on-the-ground identification, was a major goal in selection of the proposed Wilderness boundary. Most of the proposed boundary meets this goal. Exceptions exist where the proposed Wilderness boundary follows the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument boundary and a segment where the exterior National Forest boundary is concomitant with the proposed Wilderness boundary. Several boundary segments created by post-hearing adjustments are less prominent topographically than those initially proposed. Portions of the proposed Wilderness boundary may yet be subject to motor vehicle penetration, but these are isolated.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, 83 Stat. 852) established goals to “. . . encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; . . . prevent or eliminate damage to the environment; . . . to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources . . .” The Act specifies that Federal agencies will consult with other appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies before undertaking major action which may significantly affect the environment. The Council on Environmental Quality, formed by the Act, coordinates consultation between the agencies. The project review process utilizes an environmental statement concerning the project and containing related adverse and favorable environmental effects.

A draft environmental statement was prepared for the Gila Wilderness proposal prior to the December 1972 public hearings and submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality on October 5, 1972. A total of 11 Federal agencies, 8 state agencies, and 2 local agencies were contacted requesting their review of the proposal.

Resources of areas proposed for Wilderness designation, as well as those recommended for declassification, have been inventoried, evaluated, and analyzed. Reviews by responsible persons in various fields of environmental management endorse the Forest Service conclusion that Wilderness designation would result in insignificant adverse impact on the total environment. The economic and social factors of the environment would be adversely affected to a minor degree by denial of economic gains from resource uses such as logging, recreation development, and access route construction connected with these uses. These adverse environmental effects are considered minor when compared to the enduring social value of preservation of suitable portions of Gila Primitive Area and certain contiguous areas as Wilderness. This action provides benefits on a national scale “to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of Wilderness.”

PUBLIC REACTION

On October 5, 1972, a public notice was issued announcing the hearings on the Gila Wilderness proposal. Interested parties were invited to submit either a written or oral statement. Two public hearings were held, one in Silver City, New Mexico, on December 15, 1972, and the other on December 16, 1972, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The hearing record remained open for receipt of additional written statements through January 17, 1973.

The two days of hearings are documented by an official hearing record transcript containing 513 pages. In addition to the Forest Service proposal and the U.S. Geological Survey — U.S. Bureau of Mines mineral survey summary statement, a total of 206 persons made oral statements. Represented in the 206 oral statements were State of New Mexico agencies, local governments, chambers of commerce, resource users associations, logging companies, mining interests, livestock men, water users organizations, professional societies, wildlife conservation organizations, conservation associations and organizations, student environmental organizations, outdoor clubs, several other interests, and individuals.

Prehearing and posthearing responses for inclusion in the hearing record totaled 1,143, producing a grand total of 1,349 responses. Of those responding, 67 favored the Forest Service proposal. Respondents in favor of leaving the Gila Wilderness at its present size, accompanied by declassification of the entire Gila Primitive Area, totaled 93. The majority of organizations and individuals favored a proposal prepared by the Gila Wilderness Study Committee, with members from various conservation organizations. Respondents favoring this proposal, referred to as the Joint Conservationists' Proposal, totaled 1,153. The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, and at least 46 other conservation organizations sponsored this proposal. A copy of the Joint Conservationists' Proposal is included in Appendix B.

The remaining 36 respondents favored other proposals. One favored less Wilderness than that of the present Gila Wilderness, and 26 favored more acreage than presently exists, but less than the Forest Service proposal. Six respondents favored more Wilderness than the Forest Service proposal, but less than the Joint Conservationists' Proposal. Three respondents favored leaving the Wilderness and Primitive Area boundaries as they now are.

Over half of the public response, or 731 expressions of opinions, came from New Mexico, while 618 responses originated from 36 other states and the District of Columbia. Response from Arizona totaled 246, from Texas 193, and 179 from other states.

Five agencies of the Federal Government responded to an invitation to comment on the proposal. Two favored the Forest Service proposal, and three gave replies which were noncommittal.

Fourteen members of Congress from Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas were contacted. Twelve did not respond, and noncommittal letters were received from two. The Governors of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas were advised of this proposal. Noncommittal replies were received from the Governors of Arizona and New Mexico. Response was received from one New Mexico State Representative offering his support of the Joint Conservationists' Proposal. Out-of-state officials were contacted as a courtesy since their constituents make up a large percentage of visitors to the area.

Seven state government agencies responded with comments. Two agencies favor the Forest Service proposal, and four submitted alternate proposals differing from both the Forest Service and Joint Conservationist Proposals. One Arizona agency was noncommittal except for supporting exclusion of lands which would probably be flooded by Hooker Reservoir.

County Commissioners of both Catron and Grant Counties oppose more Wilderness than the present Gila Wilderness. The city of Lordsburg, New Mexico, is the only municipal government that responded. It is located approximately 40 miles southwest of Silver City in Hidalgo County and opposes any more Wilderness than the present Gila Wilderness. The Highway Department of Coconino County, Arizona, submitted a response in favor of the Forest Service proposal.

Response was received from 59 organizations or associations. Of these, 36 are New Mexico based or are New Mexico chapters of National organizations or associations. Other organizations that responded are located in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, and Alabama. Six organizations including timber product associations, the Society for Range Management, and the Society for American Foresters supported the Forest Service proposal. Supporting the Joint Conservationists' Proposal are 39 organizations or associations including Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Audubon Society.

Fourteen local organizations including resource user associations, chambers of commerce, and the Southwest New Mexico Resource Conservation and Development Project Council either opposed adding acreage to the present Gila Wilderness or found only portions of the Forest Service Wilderness proposal acceptable.

Those expressing opposition to expanding the size of the existing Gila Wilderness generally cited the adverse local economic effect of more Wilderness on consumptive resource use. Reasons most often given are: Wilderness designation precludes modern and scientific practices of careful and planned use of timber, mineral, and forage resources; there is a need for management for developed recreation sites; Gila Primitive Area lands should be returned to "multiple use" management instead of being designated as Wilderness; the Gila Wilderness as proposed eliminates the possibility of developed site use along too much of the prime southwestern New Mexico fishing and recreation streams; many people cannot, or do not, choose to visit wildernesses where there are restrictions against motor vehicle use; development of natural resources instead of "locking them up" in wilderness provides economic progress and maintains a high standard of living; ten percent of the proposed Wilderness has possible mineralization of economic value as stated by U.S.G.S., which is higher than average for most public lands; and when lands are in wilderness, they are essentially no longer available for exploration and development of mineral resources, especially where deep core drilling is necessary.

Many of these reasons apply to wilderness in general, not just the Gila Wilderness. This would tend to indicate a basic misunderstanding of or disagreement with the Wilderness Act.

Several other reasons for not increasing the size of the Gila Wilderness were advanced. Most lacked objectivity or pertinence. Examples are: the Gila Wilderness is already big enough to serve special interest groups; the percentage of those able to visit wilderness is small; most people, and especially the "working man," do not have sufficient time or money to enjoy wilderness; wilderness wastes natural resources; our country needs to develop all of its resources, not waste them for wilderness; "withdrawal" of additional land for wilderness hampers the nation in fulfilling its destiny as the most prosperous and influential nation in the world; and conservation organizations are interested only in their role as protectors of national heritage and their desire to maintain the universe in a pristine state.

The fact that almost 93 percent of the Forest Service proposed Wilderness has been under wilderness or wilderness-type management since 1924 was often overlooked by those opposing the proposal. Many are apparently unaware that the Gila Primitive Area reclassification study is a requirement of the Wilderness Act and not an arbitrary action by the Forest Service.

Respondents in favor of the Joint Conservationists' Proposal advanced the following reasons: disqualifying features of Forest Service proposed exclusions of Primitive Area or Wilderness are based on more strict interpretation of the Wilderness Act than intended by Congress; it is not the intent of the Wilderness Act that every acre within a designated Wilderness be suitable, only that the entire entity remain primarily of wilderness character; the present Gila Wilderness and that proposed by the Forest Service are both too small considering the growing national demand for wilderness-type country; Wilderness classification conserves natural resources by reserving them until they may be more critically needed; wilderness is the true heritage of mankind, and the increasing need for it is part of our genetic endowment; many of the proposed exclusions contain ecosystems which are relatively rare in the proposed Wilderness; we need to leave portions of large natural ecosystems such as those of the "Gila Country" intact so that there will be some answers remaining when we learn to ask the right questions about ecology; the Wilderness Act provides for continued prospecting and mining in wildernesses, contrary to what the public is led to believe; most resources in additions proposed by conservationists are not being consumptively used and, therefore, would not be withdrawn or denied as a result of Wilderness designation; one needs desire, not youth or money, to visit wilderness.

Many of the reasons offered by advocates of a larger Gila Wilderness do not apply to the Gila Wilderness alone, but can be interpreted to be a plea for more wilderness in general. The majority of those who felt a larger area was justified substantiated the position by expressing a critical need to preserve all remaining areas possessing some wilderness characteristics, regardless of quality.

Those supporting the Joint Conservationists' Proposal also gave an opinion on construction of Hooker Dam and the John S. Hamilton, Jr., land exchange. They strongly opposed construction of Hooker Dam because a beautiful and unusual part of the Wilderness along the lower Gila River would be adversely affected by a reservoir. The Hamilton land exchange was strongly supported because of the opportunity it provides for acquiring private holdings within the existing and proposed Gila Wilderness. Many individuals and organizations, especially from the local area, expressed the opinion that lands which would be inundated by the reservoir be excluded. These people feel that Hooker Dam is economically important to the local area and is necessary to control flooding of the Gila River below the dam. They also feel that possible inundation of Gila Wilderness lands, and concern of conservation groups created by this possibility, may be delaying construction of Hooker Dam.

Considerable on-the-ground review of the Gila Primitive Area and lands contiguous to the Primitive Area and the present Gila Wilderness was made by members of various conservation groups. Information was assembled and evaluated by the Gila Wilderness Study Committee during preparation of the Joint Conservationists' Gila Wilderness Proposal. The conservationist proposed Wilderness, being approximately 70,000 acres larger than this final Forest Service proposal, contains all Forest Service proposed additions of contiguous lands and includes most Forest Service recommended exclusions of existing Wilderness or Primitive Area lands.

A few individuals and groups supported alternate proposals differing from the Forest Service proposal, the Joint Conservationists' Proposal, and those favoring no increase in the size of existing Gila Wilderness. Other alternatives suggested were:

a. Declassification of most Gila Primitive Area lands and adjustment of the present Gila Wilderness boundary to topographic features including only a minimum of Primitive Area and contiguous lands within the Wilderness.

b. Acceptance of the Forest Service proposed Wilderness, except for exclusion of lands that would be inundated by Hooker reservoir.

c. Acceptance of the Forest Service proposed Wilderness with exclusion of lands that would be inundated by Hooker reservoir, and exclusion of all existing and proposed Wilderness northeast of the Gila River Middle Fork.

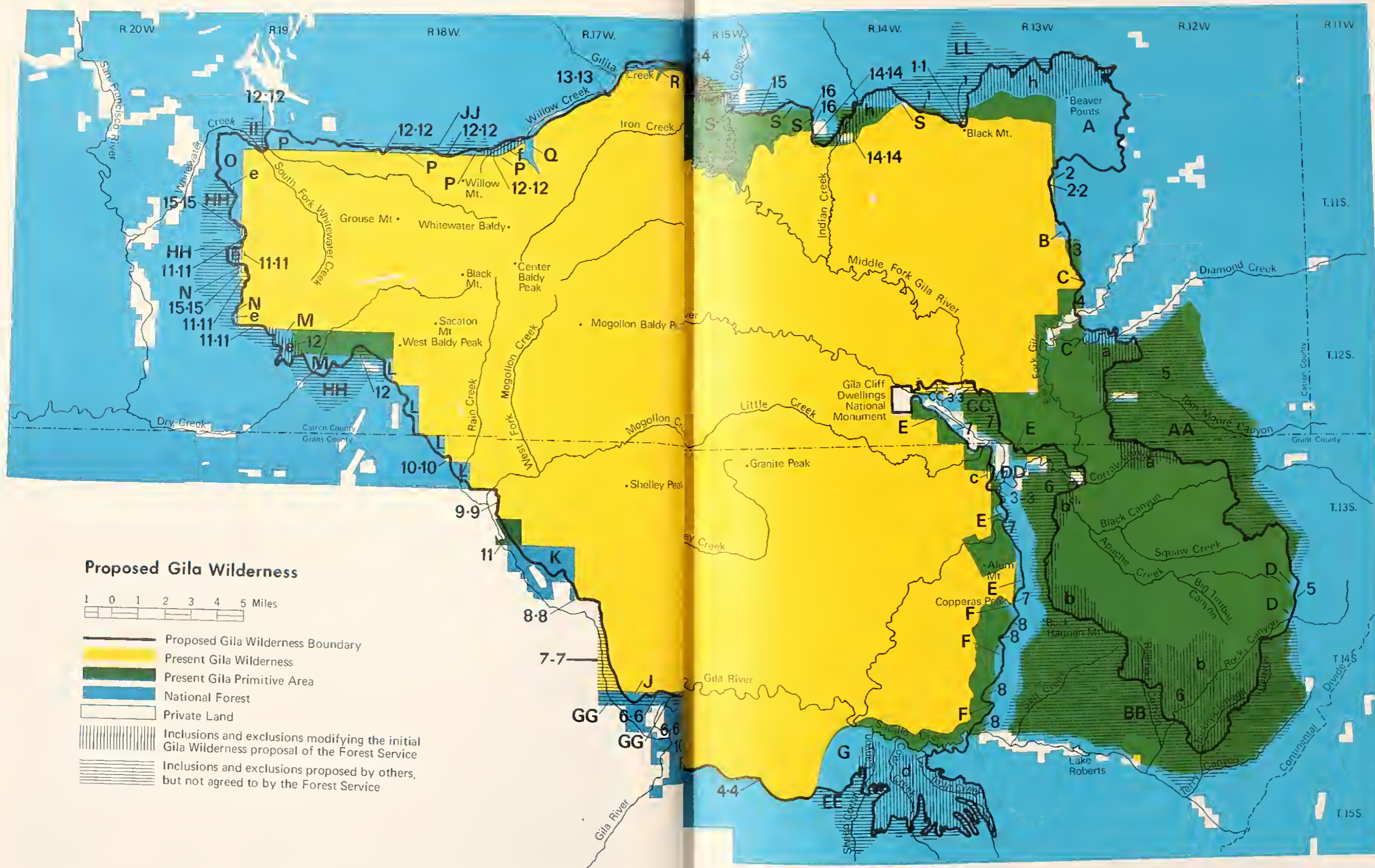
d. Designation of a Gila Wilderness excluding all lands of the Forest Service proposed Wilderness having a good possibility of mineralization.

e. Designation of a Gila Wilderness differing from that proposed by the Forest Service by exclusion of the main bulk of Primitive Area and contiguous lands between New Mexico State Highways 15, 35, and 61, and Primitive Area lands that would be inundated by Hooker reservoir.

f. Several different combinations generally accepting the Forest Service proposed Wilderness with the inclusion of various additions suggested by the Joint Conservationists' Proposal.

These alternatives and other alternatives receiving major support are described in more detail in the Final Environmental Statement.





CONCLUSIONS

Wilderness was defined by Congress in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act as “. . . an area where earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man . . . an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character . . .” and as an area which “. . . (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude . . .” Direction was given by Congress to the Secretary of Agriculture to study Primitive Areas for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or declassification. Section 3(b) states in part “. . . The Secretary of Agriculture shall . . . review, as to its suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified . . . as ‘primitive’ . . .”

It was within this context that the Forest Service study was made. Conclusions were reached after full consideration of all comments made at public hearings on December 15 and 16, 1972, as well as all comments submitted in writing until the January 17, 1973, hearing record closing date. Environmental effect of the Wilderness proposal upon all factors of the environment were given consideration by the Forest Service and the related comments of other government agencies were fully evaluated.

Areas Suitable for Wilderness

A total of 514,354 acres of the proposed Gila Wilderness have been classified and managed as either Wilderness or Primitive Area since 1924. Studies by the Forest Service and comments submitted by government agencies, groups, and individuals show that no significant reason has developed to justify discontinuing management as wilderness. All pertinent evidence indicates that Wilderness designation should be extended to cover certain areas contiguous to both the Primitive Area and Wilderness.

The existing Wilderness, Primitive Area, and unclassified land areas in the initially proposed Forest Service Gila Wilderness are shown on the map on page 26. This map shows the interrelationships of the Gila Wilderness, Gila Primitive Area, and lands contiguous to both which were studied for suitability or unsuitability as Wilderness. The 19 initially proposed Forest Service additions, all of which are suitable for classification as Wilderness, are identified as Additions A through S. Initial additions total 16,493 acres of National Forest land.

There was strong public support given the Joint Conservationists' Proposal. This proposal was carefully studied, analyzed, and evaluated by the Forest Service. The conservationist proposal acreage differs from that of the initial Forest Service proposal by the inclusion of 62,415 acres of Gila Primitive Area and 1,263 acres of existing Wilderness excluded from the Forest Service proposal, and the inclusion of an additional 35,582 acres of unclassified National Forest land.

The initial Forest Service Gila Wilderness proposal represents the prescription for a wilderness having the most practical and manageable boundary surrounding high quality wilderness. Some of the Gila Primitive Area and contiguous unclassified lands of wilderness character were not included in the original Forest Service proposal because a strong, identifiable boundary could not be found to include them. Some of these lands make up portions of Joint Conservationist proposed additions. Some of these lands have been accepted by the Forest Service for inclusion in this proposal. However, the revised boundary around these additions offers less positive on-the-ground identification. At isolated locations, a complete lack of well defined topographic features will necessitate extraordinary boundary posting and possibly the use of barriers to prevent motor vehicle entry.

Close examination of the Joint Conservationist Additions AA through LL indicates that portions of AA, BB, DD, EE, HH, JJ, KK, and LL are acceptable for addition to the Forest Service proposed Wilderness. These areas contain a total of 28,924 acres of National Forest land and one tract of private land containing 80 acres. These post-hearing additions to the Wilderness proposal are shown on the map, page 26, as Additions (a) through (h). These eight areas, containing Gila Primitive Area and Gila Wilderness lands formerly recommended for exclusion by the Forest Service, along with unclassified land contiguous to the original Forest Service proposed Wilderness, are described as follows:

Most of Addition (a), containing 3,030 acres, is a part of Joint Conservationist proposed Addition AA, except for a minor acreage extending beyond AA to the north of Diamond Creek. See Detail Map page 40. It is composed of two segments of former Gila Primitive Area Exclusion 5. The southern unit contains 1,209 acres in the Corral Canyon drainage, and the northern unit contains 1,523 acres of former Exclusion 5, south of Diamond Creek and 298 acres of unclassified land on Diamond Creek. The proposed boundary follows less apparent topographic features than originally proposed, but may still be relatively easily recognized on the ground.

Improvements are 5.1 miles of barbed wire fence, 3 earthen dam stock tanks, and 2 miles of trail in Corral Canyon. Although the earthen dam stock tanks were constructed by motorized equipment, no evidence remains of vehicle access routes.

These lands are grazed by cattle on the Diamond Bar Allotment. Pinyon-juniper is the predominant vegetative type with some open grass and scattered stands of ponderosa pine. The pine contains .050 million board feet of operable ponderosa pine timber and 1.052 million board feet of ponderosa pine that is inoperable.

Proposed Addition (b) contains 11,174 acres of Gila Primitive Area land originally excluded by the Forest Service as a part of Exclusion 6. It is also a part of Joint Conservationist proposed Addition BB. Addition (b) has three segments containing parts of Jordan Canyon, Gila Flats, Railroad Canyon, Rocky Canyon, and Turkey Cienega Canyon. See Detail Map, page 41.

This area was found suitable in initial studies, but the lack of a good boundary and the presence of several man-made structures caused the recommended exclusion. The adjusted boundary now recommended does not follow identifiable topographic features at all locations, especially in the vicinity of Gila Flats. However, the proposed boundary location is manageable and includes lands suitable for wilderness.

Improvements included are 2.8 miles of barbed wire fence, 3 earthen dam stock tanks, 2 rock masonry dams, 1 helispot, 2 corrals, and 4 miles of developed trail.

These lands are grazed by cattle. Ponderosa pine vegetative type occupies 4,270 acres, occurring as canyon stringers and patches on steep slopes. Operable timber volume is .360 million board feet, while a volume of 7.330 million is considered inoperable for logging.

A rugged portion of conservationist Addition DD, includes steep land west of the Gila River where it leaves the State Highway 15 corridor, is acceptable to the Forest Service for Wilderness. This area contains 102 acres with 58 acres formerly a part of Primitive Area Exclusion 7, and 44 acres formerly a part of Wilderness Exclusion 3-3. This area is suitable for Wilderness, but was originally excluded to obtain a better boundary on topographic features. See Detail Map page 42. There are no improvements within the addition, and the timber volume of .009 million board feet is inoperable for logging.

Joint Conservationist proposed Addition EE is entirely unclassified National Forest land contiguous to the original proposed Wilderness boundary south of Sapillo Creek. This land was also originally studied by the Forest Service. However, Forest Service proposed Addition G was not extended into this area because the original boundary location along the breaks of Sapillo Creek is most easily identified on the ground. Topography of the conservationist proposed addition is generally a series of north-south canyons separated by flat ridges. A proposed boundary to include only those canyons suitable for wilderness was not then considered desirable.

Further study finds that 6,643 acres are suitable for inclusion. The boundary follows relatively well-defined breaks into Trout Creek, Cow Creek, and Sheep Corral Canyon. See Detail Map, page 43.

Improvements are 5.5 miles of barbed wire fence, 2 corrals, 1 earthen dam stock tank, and 2.6 miles of developed trail. A small acreage of unpatented mining claims located near the south edge of the area was examined during the mineral survey and was found to have no minerals of economic value. A portion of Sheep Corral Canyon has been stocked with Gila trout, a native endangered species. The entire area is grazed by cattle on portions of 3 grazing allotments. More than half of the proposed addition is covered by pinyon-juniper. Ponderosa pine grows on more moist sites in the canyon bottoms and north slopes. Estimated volumes are 1.400 million board feet of operable timber and 3.322 million board feet of inoperable timber.

Recommended Addition (e) is within Conservationist proposed Addition HH. This area is in 4 separate pieces, totaling 1,040 acres of National Forest land. It is situated along the western edge of the proposed Wilderness. Although these areas are suitable for wilderness, they were not included in the original proposal in order to provide a stronger topographic boundary. A boundary on identifiable topographic features is particularly important at these locations because of prospecting and mining activities in this general area. The boundary created by this addition is located on topographic features which are moderately easy to identify on the ground. See Detail Map, page 44.

The largest of the four segments contains 670 acres of rugged country west of Sheridan Mountain. Included are 512 acres of unclassified National Forest land, 137 acres of Forest Service Primitive Area Exclusion 12, and 21 acres of Forest Service Wilderness Exclusion 11-11. A small portion of the addition between Red Colt and Goddard Canyons contains 51 acres of unclassified land contiguous to proposed Addition N. A third segment located between the north and south forks of Shelton Canyon contains 230 acres of unclassified land and 19 acres of Forest Service Wilderness Exclusion 11-11. The fourth segment has 70 acres of unclassified land contiguous to Addition O north of Deer Park Canyon.

Improvements within proposed Addition (e) include 0.6 mile of barbed wire fence, 0.6 mile of trail, and 1 developed spring. Approximately 55 acres of unpatented mining claims are within the addition, but no associated activity or minerals of economic importance were noted. The entire area is grazed by cattle. Scattered patches or stringers of ponderosa pine in inaccessible areas have an estimated timber volume of .560 million board feet.

The eastern end of Joint Conservationist proposed Addition J-J is acceptable. This area contains 485 acres within the north fork drainage of Willow Creek and is designated as Addition (f). The 5-acre southern tip of this addition was a part of Forest Service Wilderness Exclusion 12-12 and the balance is unclassified National Forest land. The proposed boundary along the northern edge follows well defined topographic features. See Detail Map, page 45.

A 1.6-mile length of trail along Willow Creek is the only improvement within the area. No

cattle graze here. Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, and Englemann spruce grow here. Estimated timber volume operable for logging is .596 million board feet, while 1.058 million board feet are inoperable.

A 1,210-acre portion of Forest Service proposed Primitive Area Exclusion 14 and 74 acres of contiguous National Forest land east of Exclusion 14 are acceptable to the Forest Service for additions. This area, shown as Addition (g), includes a grassland type. The boundary delineating this portion of Joint Conservationist proposed Addition KK is not located on readily identifiable topographic features. Boundary standards would be sacrificed for the purpose of including more of this unique vegetative type.

Improvements include 1 mile of trail and 2 miles of barbed wire fence. Most of the area is grazed by cattle. Very little of the addition is forested. Patches of ponderosa pine in drainages contain .090 million board feet of operable timber and .150 million board feet of inoperable timber. See Detail Map, page 46.

Two large portions of Joint Conservationist proposed Addition LL are acceptable to the Forest Service. See Detail Map, page 47. Both are designated as proposed Addition (h), covering 5,116 acres of National Forest land. The boundary around these areas is partially located on topographic features with fair ease of on-the ground identification. However, it lacks the high standards of the originally proposed boundary.

This area contains 20 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 14-14, 845 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 16, and 4,301 acres of contiguous unclassified National Forest land. A private tract of 80 acres is within former Exclusion 16. The tract is known as the San Martin Spring property, owned by John S. Hamilton, Jr. It is proposed for acquisition through land exchange as a part of the Hamilton land exchange which involves other Wilderness and Primitive Area lands.

Improvements include 3.2 miles of barbed wire fence, 2.4 miles of trail, and 1 developed spring. A 6-acre portion of unpatented mining claims, located on the ridge between Wolf Hollow Canyon and Bell Canyon northeast of Black Mountain, is included.

Over half of the area supports commercial timber types. Timber is mostly ponderosa pine with a small acreage of mixed conifer at higher elevations or on more moist sites. Operable volume is estimated to be 6.410 million board feet, and an additional 4.994 million board feet are considered inoperable for logging.

Areas Not Suitable for Wilderness

A majority of those commenting upon the original Forest Service proposal strongly supported the Joint Conservationists' Proposal. The Joint Conservationists' Proposal advocates the establishment of a Gila Wilderness with 613,938 acres of National Forest land.

As proposed by the conservationists, most of the present Gila Wilderness and the Gila Primitive Area would be finally classified as wilderness. Most of the 99,260 acres of National Forest land included in conservationist proposed Additions AA through LL were included in the area originally studied by the Forest Service. Re-examination of these areas shows that over two-thirds of the total area proposed by the conservationists lacks suitability for wilderness. Differences in Forest Service and Conservationist standards can most often be attributed to: (a) difference in interpretation of what constitutes wilderness; (b) the conservationists goal to include as much

acreage as possible under wilderness protection; and (c) unwillingness of conservationists to recommend declassification of lands already included in Primitive Area or Wilderness status, regardless of suitability.

Those portions of Joint Conservationist proposed Wilderness Additions AA through LL, considered by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for wilderness, contain several different categories of land. Included are all or portions of final Forest Service proposed Exclusions 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, and 16. These areas are shown on the map, page 26, and on individual detail maps, pages 40 to 53. Final Forest Service proposed Wilderness Exclusions 1-1, 3-3, 6-6, 7-7, 11-11, 12-12, and 14-14 are also partially or wholly within unsuitable portions of Conservationist proposed additions. These are shown on the map, page 26, and individual detail maps, pages 40 to 53.

Unclassified National Forest lands, contiguous to the final Forest Service proposed Wilderness boundary, are also within Conservationist proposed additions. These lands are considered by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for wilderness, and are shown on the map on page 26 and on individual detail maps, pages 40 to 53.

Forest Service Primitive Area Exclusions 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 13 along with portions of Exclusions 5, 6, 7, and 16, with an estimated total of 4,000 acres, were not included in conservationist proposed additions. These areas drew no response for inclusion in the Gila Wilderness proposal and are shown on the map, page 26, and on individual detail maps. Forest Service Wilderness Exclusions 2-2, 4-4, 5-5, 8-8, 9-9, and 10-10, along with portions of 3-3 and 11-11, totaling approximately 450 acres, were not included in conservationist proposed additions. These areas were not suggested for Wilderness proposal inclusions by others responding, and are found on the map, page 26, and on individual detail maps.

Areas considered by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for Wilderness are described in the following paragraphs. Areas included in Conservationist proposed additions are described first, followed by descriptions of excluded areas outside of Conservationist proposed additions.

Conservationist proposed Addition AA contains approximately 18,225 acres of National Forest land considered as unsuitable for Wilderness by the Forest Service. About 16,465 acres of this total are within Forest Service proposed Primitive Area Exclusion 5. This portion of the Primitive Area exclusion also contains a 163-acre tract of private land in Tom Moore Canyon. See Detail Map, page 40.

Practically all of the improvements originally considered as disqualifying Exclusion 5 are within this portion of proposed Addition AA. Additional imprints of man and his activities are found on the unclassified portion of this proposed addition. Improvements having the most obvious incompatibility with wilderness are 18 miles of easily identified road; 2 motorized wells, each with derricks, pump jacks, and 2 steel rim tanks, 1,560 acres of juniper eradication treatment where mechanical equipment was used in the process; 15 earthen dam stock tanks where mechanical equipment was used to construct and/or maintain these improvements; and 175 acres with past logging on unclassified lands along the State Route 61 corridor (eastern edge). Other improvements such as fences and corrals having less impact upon wilderness quality exist within the area. Location of improvements within the unsuitable portion of proposed Addition AA limits further extension of the proposed Wilderness boundary to accept portions of this area.

Several roads within this proposed addition and outside of the Gila Primitive Area presently have unrestricted vehicle use. Several other roads leading to the motorized wells within Exclusion 5

continue to receive limited use by the Diamond Bar Grazing Allotment permittee, under agreement, for the purpose of operating and servicing these water wells.

Continuous suitable terrain features for accommodating a proposed wilderness boundary that can be easily identified on-the-ground are not available within the unacceptable portion of Addition AA. See Detail Map, page 40.

Addition BB is the largest area proposed by the conservationists for the Gila Wilderness proposal inclusion. The Forest Service considers 26,856 acres of National Forest land within the proposed addition to be unsuitable for wilderness. Included are 23,276 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 6, and 3,580 acres of contiguous unclassified land located mainly between the Primitive Area boundary and State Highways 15 and 35. A 120-acre tract of private land lies within Exclusion 6. See Detail Map, page 41.

Man's activity is substantially noticeable throughout this proposed addition. Disqualifying improvements existing within this area are 18.8 miles of road, 15 bulldozer constructed stock tanks, one stockman's cabin, and an assortment of old mining structures such as head frames, chutes, and old building foundations and ruins. Old mining activities were centered around Meerschaum and Salt Canyons, where meerschaum, a rare lightweight mineral that can be carved and shaped into objects such as pipes for smokers, was mined during the period of 1875 to 1943. An estimated 1,000 tons of this mineral were mined and shipped. Approximately 2,780 acres of unpatented mining claims exist in this area extending to the west into Copperas Canyon where deposits of several different kinds of clay exist.

A 710-acre portion of this proposed addition bordering state Route 35 was logged during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Lower reaches of Railroad and Rocky Canyons within this proposed addition are severely affected by erosion, with man being the contributing factor. Both sheet and gully erosion, with active headcutting are occurring in this area. Coarse-grained materials from this area are carried by water from heavy rainstorms and deposited in Lake Roberts, outside of the Primitive Area. This situation is shortening the life of Lake Roberts and limiting its value for developed recreation use. Corrective measures will undoubtedly necessitate the use of mechanized equipment and structures incompatible with wilderness.

The private land located on the East Fork of the Gila River has been partially subdivided and developed. The old military road which crosses the proposed addition was heavily used in the past as an access route to the Cliff Dwellings National Monument area before the State Route 15 corridor was opened for vehicle access. Many steep grades on this road are badly eroded.

Other physical improvements such as fences, corrals, developed springs, rock masonry dams, helispots, and developed trails are also present within the unsuitable portion of proposed Addition BB.

The conservationist justification for including this area within the proposed Gila Wilderness attempts to minimize the effect of each particular type of improvement of disqualifying feature. However, the Forest Service considers the total impact of man's past activities in this area. Including any of this area in the proposal could not be accomplished without inclusion of incompatible improvements and additional loss of boundary location standards.

Conservationist proposed Addition CC, as shown on Detail Map, page 42, contains 1,640 acres of National Forest land being 1,090 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 7, 260 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 3-3, and 180 acres of unclassified National Forest land. The Joint Conservationists' Proposal also recommends the additional proposal deletion of approximately 25 acres of Gila Wilderness north of Scorpion Corral, a developed recreation site outside of the Gila Wilderness along State Route 15. This area is not recommended for exclusion in the Forest Service proposal, since the portion of Gila Wilderness Exclusion 3-3 immediately adjacent to the Scorpion Corral area provides sufficient segregation of developed site recreation use.

Conservationist proposed Addition CC includes lands immediately surrounding the Gila Visitor Center and its adjacent complex area of developed type recreation use. Activities and numbers of visitors to this general area within the Gila Cliff Dwellings corridor are not compatible with wilderness. As a result, visitors to both the Cliff Dwellings National Monument and Forest Service recreation sites tend to infringe upon wilderness, while engaged in nonwilderness recreation activities. This infringement of nonwilderness type activities occurs mainly as a result of poor Wilderness and Primitive Area boundary location.

There are no strongly disqualifying improvements within Addition CC, but it is particularly essential that the proposed Wilderness boundary be on strong topographic features for delineation of different patterns of land use in this area. This is the only solution for maintaining a respectable wilderness resource segregated from nonwilderness activities. Since alternate suitable topographic features for boundary location are not available closer to developed area activities of the Cliff Dwellings Corridor, proposed Addition CC is not acceptable by the Forest Service for Wilderness proposal inclusion.

Conservationist proposed Addition DD is located to the east and west of the Gila River south of the State Highway 15 bridge. See Detail Map, page 42. A segment of the Gila River about 1 mile in length passes through the addition. The portion of this proposed addition, determined by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for wilderness, totals 508 acres. This area contains 22 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 3-3, 182 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 7, and 304 acres of unclassified National Forest land, being part of the State Highway 15 corridor.

There are essentially no disqualifying improvements within proposed Addition DD. However, the unclassified lands within the State Highway 15 corridor may contain several short lengths of utility line right-of-way, dependent upon exact on-the-ground location of the proposed addition boundary. The proposed boundary does not follow identifiable topographic features along most of its length. In this area of concentrated nonwilderness type recreation uses and activities, a Wilderness boundary on strong topographic features is essential. This requirement is especially important within the broad flood plain of the Gila River, continuing for a mile or more below the highway bridge. This flood plain is frequently used for nonwilderness type of recreation because of easy access, and motor vehicles violate this area at times.

A total of 3,197 acres of conservationist proposed Addition EE, or about one-third of the proposed addition, is considered by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for wilderness. These lands are located in the upper Snow Creek and Sheep Corral Canyon drainages and in roaded country north of the Sheep Corral Canyon Road. The area is entirely unclassified National Forest land. See Detail Map, page 43.

Improvements or evidence of man's activities within this portion of proposed Addition EE include at least 8 miles of road presently with open access, 2 bulldozer constructed earthen dam

stock tanks, 350 acres with evidence of past logging, and an undetermined acreage adjacent to spur roads on ridge tops where firewood has been cut through the years. Most of the area has relatively gentle topography and ridge tops are easily accessible by motorized vehicles.

Joint Conservationist proposed Addition FF and GG are both located in the vicinity of where the Gila River leaves the Forest Service proposed Wilderness and in the vicinity of proposed Hooker Dam and the reservoir it would create. See Detail Map, page 48. Proposed additions contain 102 acres of Forest Service Primitive Area Exclusion 10 and 298 acres of unclassified National Forest land. Proposed Addition GG includes the 697-acre Wilderness Exclusion 7-7, the 44-acre Wilderness Exclusion 6-6, 177 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 10, and 1,162 acres of unclassified National Forest land.

These lands are not considered by the Forest Service to be suitable for inclusion as part of the proposed Gila Wilderness, even though a portion of the steep slopes into river bottom may have wilderness characteristics. The Forest Service proposed Wilderness boundary in this vicinity follows strongly identifiable features such as bluff lines, rock outcropping, and the base of slopes. The Conservationist proposed boundary does not follow topographic features, but utilizes section lines and private land lines and, at some points, closely follows the proposed Hooker reservoir flood control pool level.

Topographic features for proper identifiable boundary location do not exist within proposed Additions FF and GG. On-the-ground identity of the Wilderness boundary is particularly important in this area of complicated existing and proposed land uses. The Forest Service proposed boundary does provide this identity as well as protection from motor vehicle entry.

The Forest Service proposed boundary is also compatible with the proposed Hooker Dam and its reservoir, if this project materializes as planned. Even though portions of the proposed Wilderness along the Gila River and Turkey Creek could possibly be flooded, points where the boundary crosses the reservoir could be easily identified. The boundary crossing could be marked with a buoy line, beyond which motorized boats would be prohibited. Conservationist proposed Additions FF and GG both contain segments that would be inundated by the reservoir at flood control pool level. Wilderness portions of the reservoir could not be easily identified using the Conservationist proposed boundary. The Conservationists claim that these additions would add a substantial amount of riparian vegetation to the proposed Wilderness. Very little of this vegetative type is included in these additions, and it is doubtful if wilderness protection would be of critical value in perpetuating that which does exist.

Proposed Additions FF and GG contain 3 miles of road, following the Mogollon Creek flood plain, which would be difficult to successfully close to motorized vehicles. Frequent high intensity floods on Mogollon Creek so completely scour the flood plain that installed barriers or fences at the present Wilderness boundary are completely destroyed during such occurrences. There are other improvements within the proposed additions including 175 acres of unpatented fluorspar mining claims with known deposits of fluorspar.

Conservationist proposed Addition HH is located along the western edge of the Forest Service proposed Wilderness between Forest Service proposed Additions O on the north and L on the south. See Detail Map, page 44. This area is typically foothill type country cut crossways by deep canyons of the Little Whitewater, Shelton, Holt Gulch, Goddard, Sheridan Gulch, Big Dry, and Little Dry drainages.

The Forest Service considers 7,403 acres of this proposed addition to be unsuitable for wilderness. A block of patented mining claims containing 103 acres situated in the Little Dry Creek drainage is within this proposed addition. This private land was not mentioned in the Joint Conservationists' Proposal. Lands within this portion of proposed Addition HH include 243 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 12, 89 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 11-11, 7,017 acres of unclassified National Forest land, and posthearing Wilderness Exclusion 15-15 proposed by the Forest Service, containing 54 acres.

Many locations within Addition HH have above average potential for economic mineral deposits of fluorspar and associated base and precious metals. Prospecting and mining activities at many locations have been of a magnitude equal to or exceeding that of Little Whitewater Creek, where the Conservationists left a corridor through the addition to exclude a particular area.

All of Addition HH has cattle grazing use as part of the Holt Gulch and Dry Creek Allotments. Much of the land suitable for grazing and the development of livestock water for these two allotments is within the proposed addition. Many water developments have already been constructed, along with service roads for development and maintenance.

Improvements located throughout the proposed addition are 6 roads serving as access to range improvements and mining claims, and totaling over 5 miles in length; 9 bulldozer constructed earthen dam stock tanks with access routes; 2 steel rim tanks; 8.5 miles of water pipeline, with a portion being surface line; 1 drilled well; 7 developed springs, mostly with incompatible types of construction; 15 other types of water developments; and an assortment of corrals and barbed wire fences.

Included are approximately 1800 acres of unpatented mining claims. The claims contain an assortment of shafts, adits, open trenches, open cuts, and structures, along with some access roads in addition to the 5 miles given above. Many of the mineral prospects of this area are of recent years, and increased activity can be expected as economic deposits of fluorspar are discovered and as precious metal prices increase.

Due to the existing development within proposed Addition HH very little area remains suitable as wilderness.

Two post hearing exclusions are proposed by the Forest Service within Addition HH, located at Little Whitewater Creek and Holt Gulch. These two areas total 86 acres of National Forest land, with 54 acres being part of the existing Gila Wilderness. These new exclusions are designated as Wilderness Exclusion 15-15. This exclusion will serve the purpose of improving the on-the-ground identity of the proposed Wilderness boundary at two locations where active prospecting and mining activities exist outside of the boundary. Also, a more logical margin of unclassified land will be provided between these activities and the Wilderness. The U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines reported that both areas have fluorspar deposits of possible economic value. Practically the entire excluded area is covered by mining claims with evidence of past activity.

Conservationist proposed Additions II and JJ are both located between the north boundary of the Forest Service proposed Wilderness and State Route 78. See Detail Map, page 45. Addition II contains 686 acres of National Forest land, mainly on the south-facing slope of Whitewater Creek, and includes a 4-acre tract of private land on Whitewater Creek. A 17-acre portion of this proposed addition is part of Wilderness Exclusion 12-12. This entire addition is considered by the Forest Service as unsuitable for wilderness. A portion of proposed Addition JJ,

containing 799 acres of unclassified National Forest land and 15 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 12-12, is considered by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for wilderness. This narrow strip of land is to the north of the main Whitewater Creek-Mineral Creek Divide, a strong natural feature selected by the Forest Service for location of the proposed boundary.

Both proposed additions bear evidence of man's past activities. The 4-acre tract of land within Addition II is well known as the "powerhouse site" where electric power was generated for activities of the Mogollon Mining District. Fuel wood used at the powerplant was cut throughout proposed Addition II. A graded access route crosses the area from State Route 78 to the powerhouse site. Large concrete foundations, stonework, and abandoned equipment remain at the powerhouse site. The entire 1.8 mile length of road within the addition was traveled by 4-wheel drive vehicles until recent years when the lower portion dropping into Whitewater Creek became impassable due to severe erosion on steep grades. Vehicles presently travel 1.2 miles of this road to the Pine Flats area where a Forest Service inventoried trail head development site is located. Past prospecting and mining activities have left the area with over 300 acres of mining claims and an assortment of shafts, adits and prospect holes.

Most of the proposed Addition JJ was logged during the period between 1902 and 1911. Although cutting was light and most evidence of this logging has faded, stumps do remain at some locations.

Both proposed Additions II and JJ lack suitable topographic features for establishment of a wilderness boundary that can be readily identified on-the-ground.

Conservationist proposed Addition KK, located south and east of Loco Mountain contains 3,316 acres determined by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for wilderness. See Detail Map, page 46. Components of this area are 2,360 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 14, 205 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 15 and 751 acres of unclassified National Forest land. A large portion of this proposed addition is rolling country with an open, bunch grass vegetative type, allowing easy penetration by motorized vehicles and having practically no topographic features for wilderness boundary location.

Evidence of man's activities within this area include 3.6 miles of road and an abandoned airstrip on Aeroplane Mesa, at the southern tip of the proposed addition. Both the airstrip and roads were graded and maintained as recently as 10 years ago. Four bulldozer constructed earthen dam stock tanks with equipment access routes are also within the proposed addition. These improvements are definitely incompatible with wilderness.

A 42-acre portion of Gila Primitive Area, initially included within the Forest Service proposed Wilderness, is now recommended by the Forest Service for exclusion. This area is next to the northwest corner of Conservationist proposed Addition KK, and it is identified on the maps as Exclusion 17. Deletion of this small area will provide a more logical proposed Wilderness boundary based on stronger topographic features that can be more easily identified on the ground.

Conservationist proposed Addition LL shown on the Detail Map, page 47, contains an estimated 4,553 acres of National Forest land determined by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for Wilderness. Included are 212 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 16, 245 acres of Primitive Area Exclusion 1, 10 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 1, 12 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 14-14, and 4,074 acres of unclassified National Forest land.

The boundary as proposed by the Conservationists is not on identifiable topographic features. Roads presently open to vehicle traffic, totaling 3.2 miles in length, are included within the proposed addition. The entire central portion of this area and lands along Bell Canyon are readily accessible through off-road vehicle travel. Disqualifying improvements include 5.5 miles of road, 3 bulldozer constructed earthen dam stock tanks, and the administrative site improvements at Black Mountain.

Forest Service proposed Primitive Area Exclusions 2, 3, and 4 total 692 acres of National Forest land and 62 acres of private land between Beaver points and the East Fork of the Gila River. These proposed exclusions allow location of the proposed Wilderness boundary on topographic features that can easily be identified on the ground. Included improvements are 0.8 mile of road, 3 bulldozer constructed stock tanks, and approximately 1 mile of fence. See Detail Map, page 49.

Portions of Primitive Area Exclusions 5, 6, and 7 were not included in Conservationist proposed Additions AA, BB, CC, and DD. These areas are generally located in the narrow strip of land between State Routes 61, 35, and 15 and the Forest Service or Joint Conservationist proposed Wilderness boundaries. These areas contain a total of 1,156 acres of National Forest land, and are shown on Detail Maps on pages 41 and 42. These pieces of Forest Service proposed exclusions were not disqualified on a basis of what exists on these lands alone, but rather on the disqualifying features of the exclusions as a whole. Portions of roads and a portion of the large mechanical vegetative treatment area of Exclusion 5 are within these pieces of Exclusion 5. The largest segment of Exclusion 6 not included in Conservationist proposed Addition BB contains the most severely eroded portions of Railroad and Rocky Canyons. The portion of Forest Service Primitive Area Exclusion 7 not within Conservationist proposed Additions CC or DD consists of narrow strips of land along State Highway 15. See Detail Map on page 42. These areas are proposed for exclusion by the Forest Service to provide a Wilderness boundary on more readily identifiable topographic features.

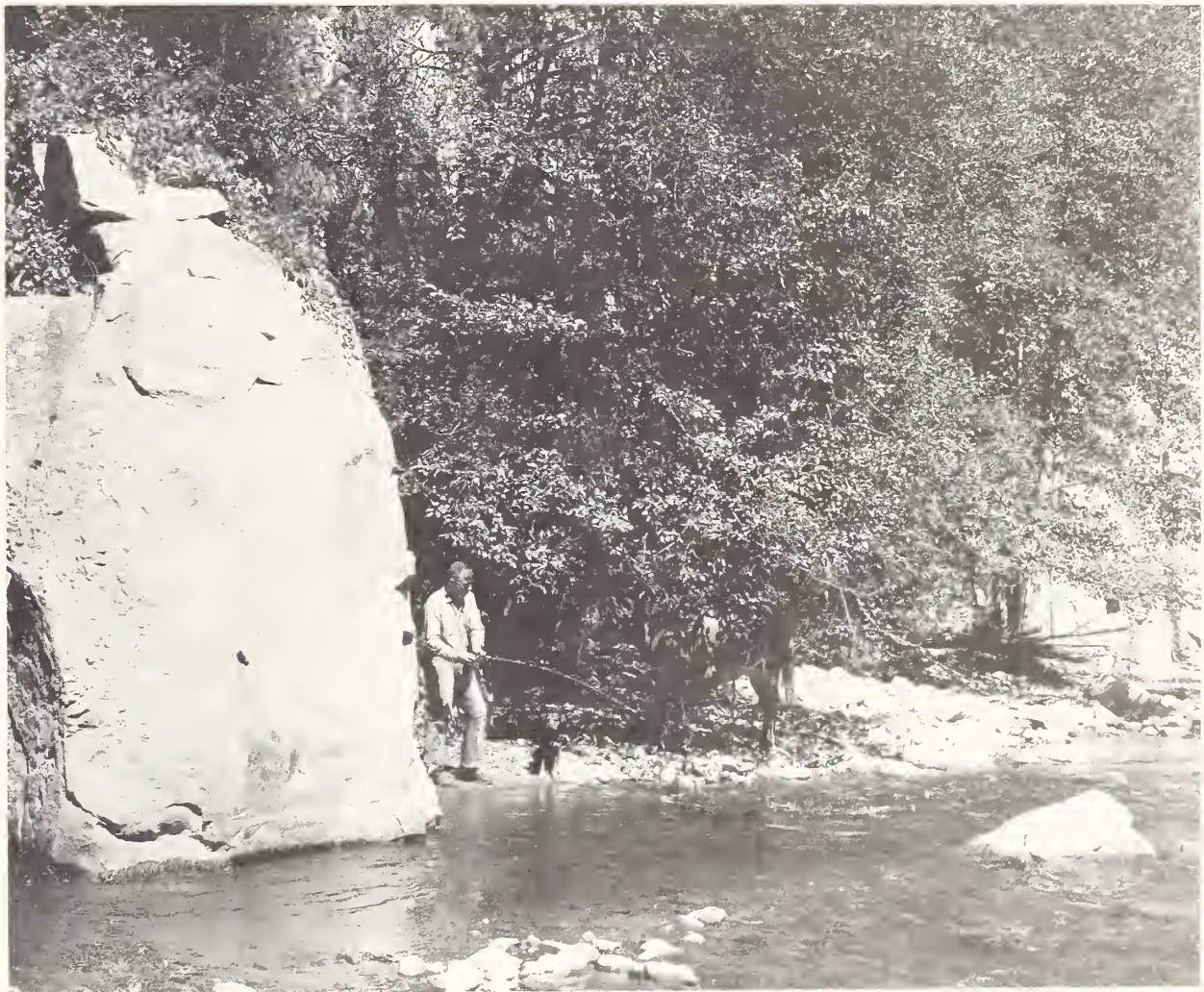
Forest Service proposed Primitive Area Exclusions 8, 9, and 11 contain 456, 109, and 211 acres of National Forest land as shown on Detail Maps, pages 50, 48, 52. Exclusion 11 also has an included 81-acre tract of private land. These proposed exclusions are not within Conservationist proposed additions. Exclusion 8 is located along the west side of the State Highway 15 corridor between Copperas Peak and Sapillo Creek. Exclusions 9 and 11 are portions of Gila Primitive Area lands located along the southwest edge of the proposed Wilderness. Each of these three exclusions is recommended primarily for the purpose of providing a Gila Wilderness boundary that can be easily identified and that will give good protection against entry of motorized vehicles.

Proposed Primitive Area Exclusion 13 contains 379 acres of National Forest land north of the Gilita Creek drainage. This narrow strip of ridge top country is easily penetrated by motorized vehicles. The proposed Wilderness boundary forming this exclusion follows the Gilita Canyon rim leaving little chance for motorized vehicle entry into the proposed Wilderness. This is shown on the Detail Map on page 53. Several small pieces of Forest Service recommended Primitive Area Exclusion 16, to the north of the proposed Wilderness, near Indian Creek, are outside of Conservationist proposed Addition LL and are shown on the Detail Map, page 47. These areas contain 80 acres of National Forest land. Exclusion is recommended by the Forest Service in order to obtain a boundary of higher standards.

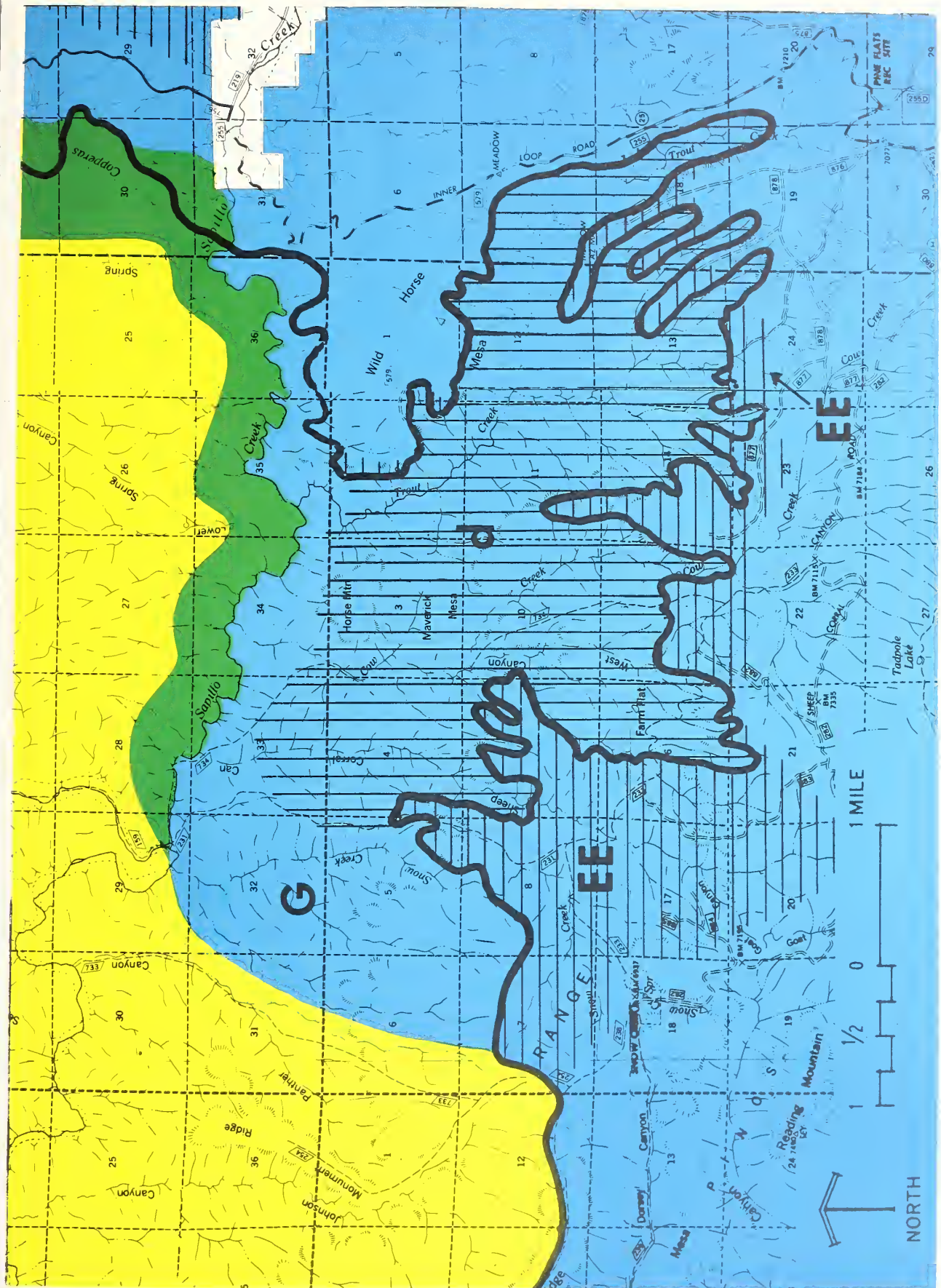
Forest Service proposed Gila Wilderness Exclusions 2-2, 4-4, 5-5, 8-8, 9-9, and 10-10 are shown on the Detail Maps, pages 49 to 52, and contain a total of 354 acres of National Forest land at isolated locations along the southwestern, southern, and eastern boundaries of the proposed

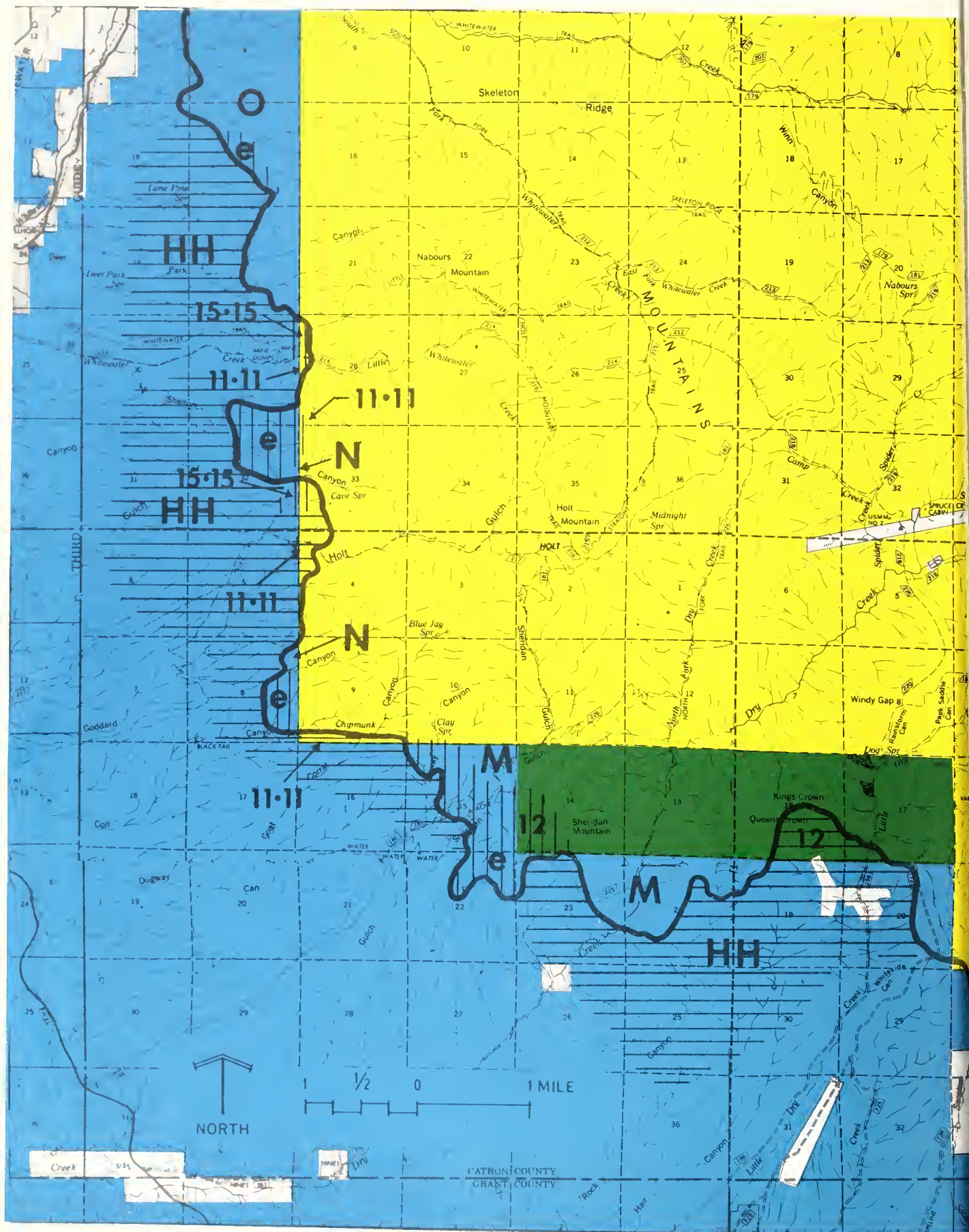
Wilderness. These exclusions are not within Conservationist proposed Additions and, therefore, are acceptable to those advocating a larger Wilderness. In each case, the exclusion has been recommended to provide a boundary based on continuous topographic features, replacing the existing unrealistic boundary generally following unsurveyed legal subdivision lines. These exclusions involve a minimum acreage with the proposed boundary following topographic features near to the existing boundary. Selected boundary locations creating these recommended exclusions also provide protection from possible motor vehicle entry to the Wilderness. Man's improvements are not a disqualifying factor preventing these areas from remaining as classified Wilderness.

Eight acres of Wilderness Exclusion 11-11 and 81 acres of Wilderness Exclusion 3-3 as proposed by the Forest Service have not been included in Conservationist proposed additions. The small portion of Exclusion 11-11 is located in Little Whitewater Creek drainage where recent mineral prospecting and extraction of fluorspar have taken place on claims which extend into this area. See the Detail Map, page 44. The segment of Exclusion 3-3 meeting approval by the Conservationists is contiguous to the Scorpion Corral developed recreation site, and provides a proposed Wilderness boundary on identifiable topographic features rather than on legal subdivision lines. This improved boundary will provide segregation of wilderness and nonwilderness types of visitor use. See Detail Map, page 42.



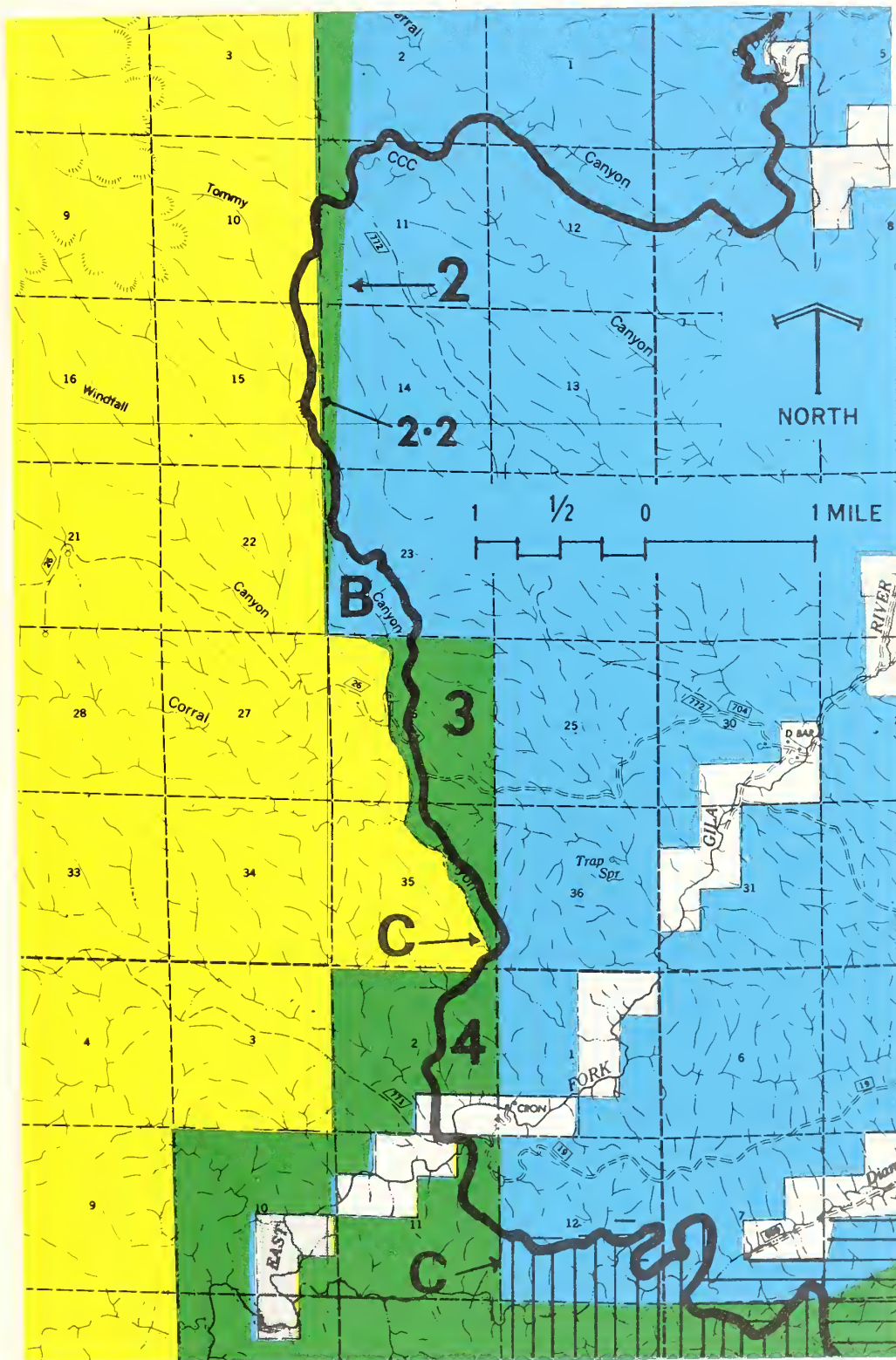


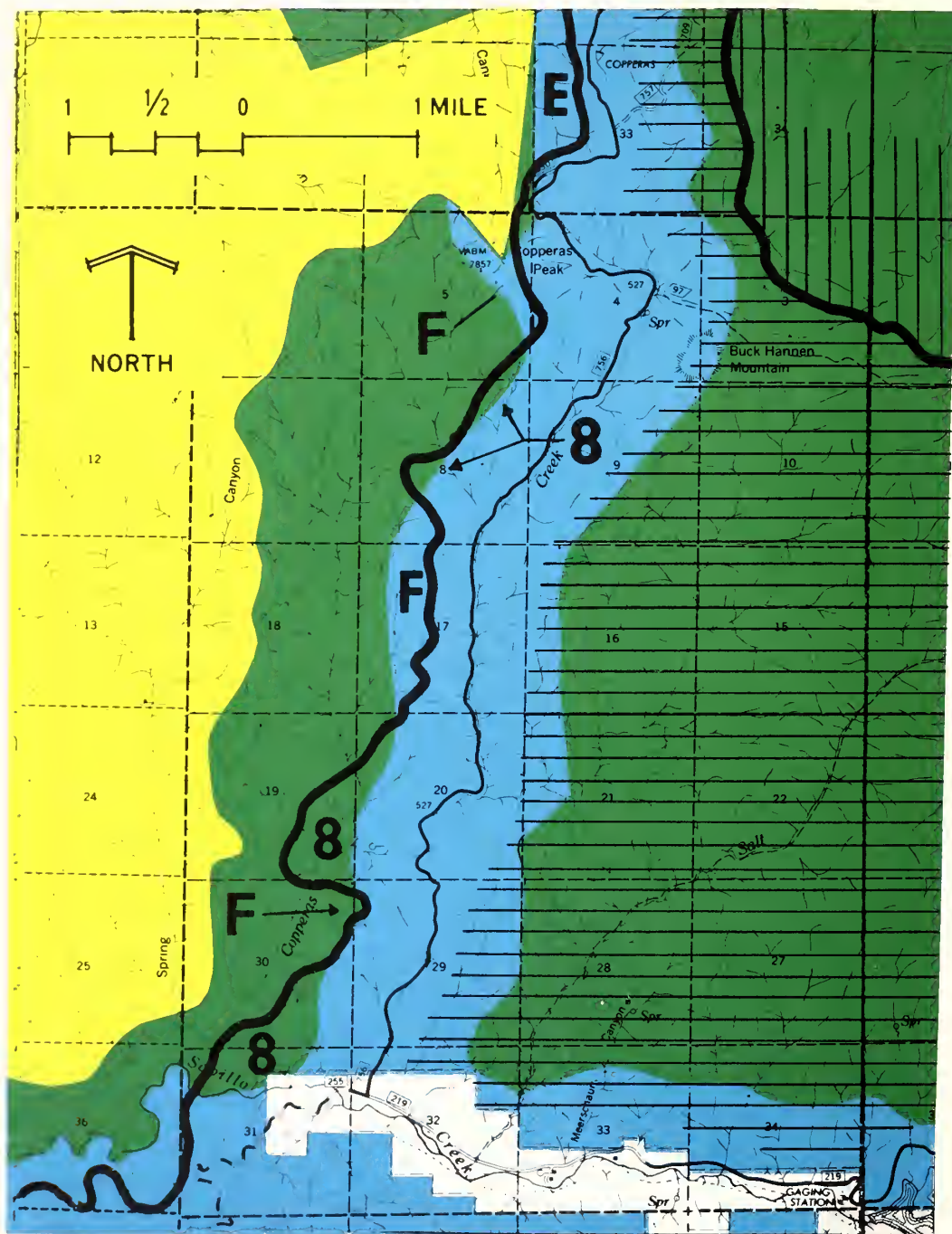


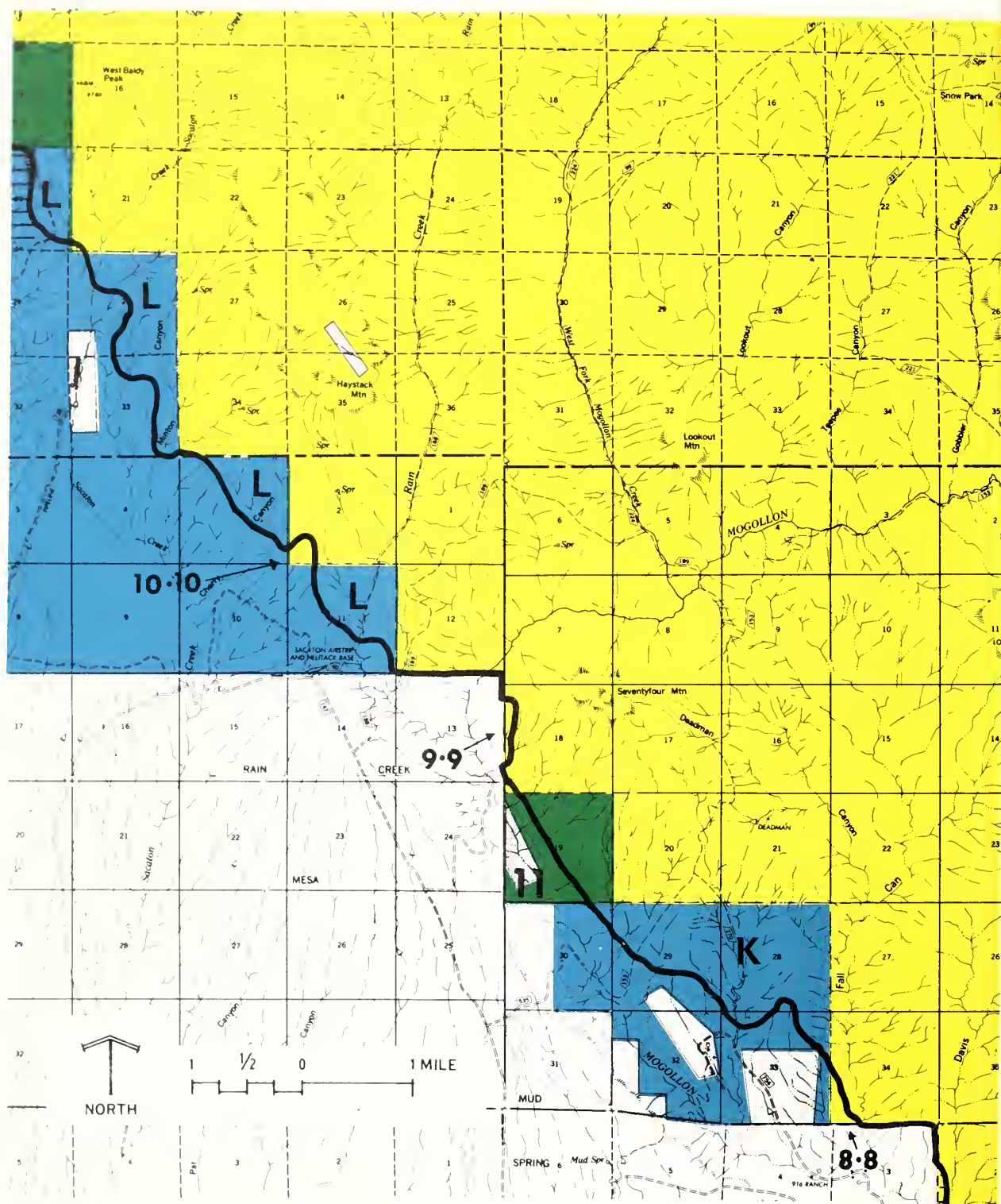


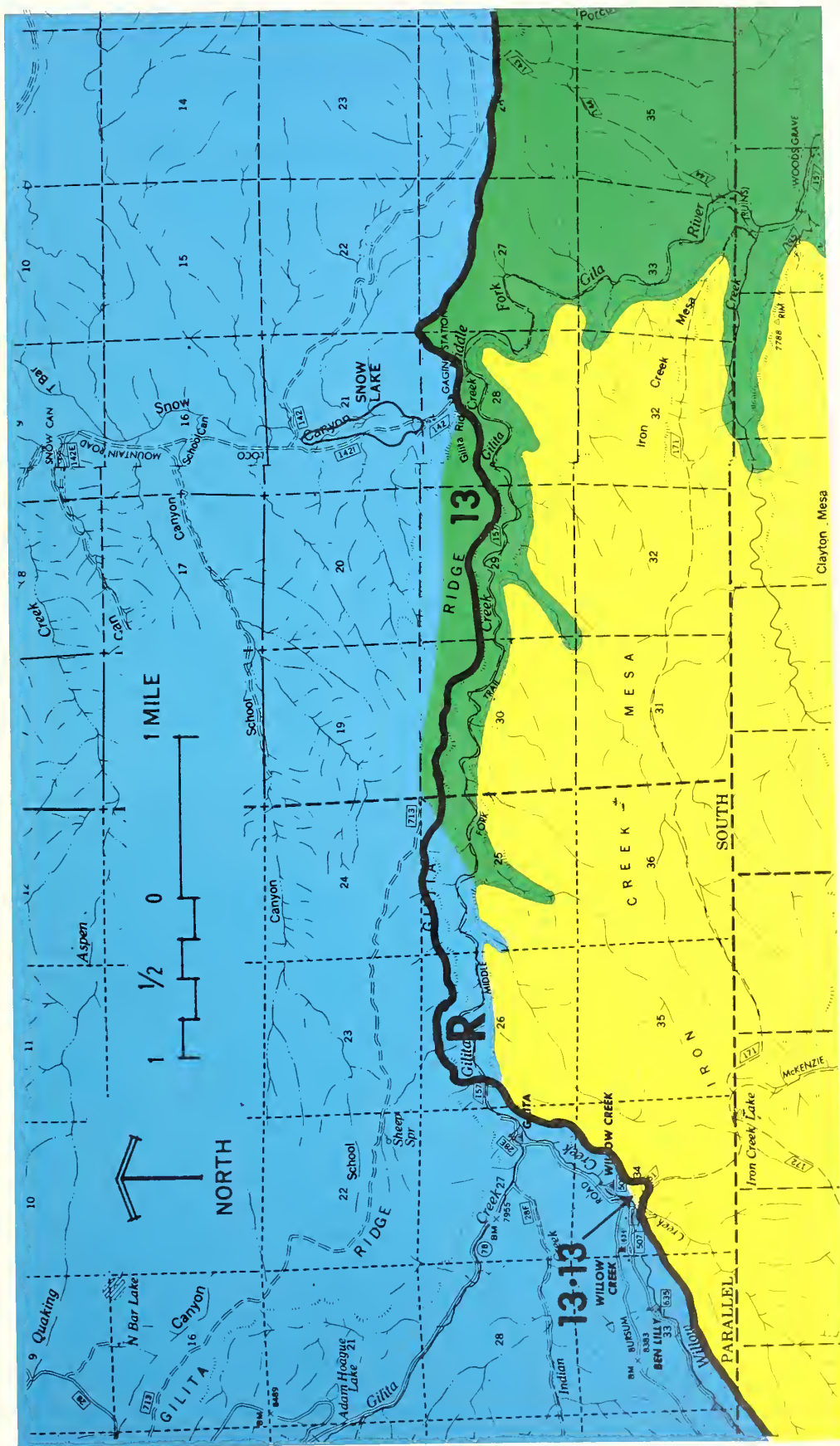












**APPENDIX A
BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
PROPOSED GILA WILDERNESS**

The proposed Gila Wilderness is on the Gila National Forest in Catron and Grant Counties in the State of New Mexico. The following description refers to the map titled "Proposed Gila Wilderness, Gila National Forest, Southwestern Region," which is on file at the Forest Service Regional Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico; the office of the Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, Silver City, New Mexico; and Gila National Forest District Ranger Offices at Beaverhead, Glenwood, Mimbres, Reserve, Silver City, and at the Gila Visitor Center in New Mexico.

All land hereinafter described is in surveyed townships, except for land in T. 10 S., R. 17 W; T. 12 S., R. 14 W. (Portion); T. 12 S., R. 15 W; T. 13 S., R. 14 W; T. 13 S., R. 15 W; T. 13 S., R. 16 W; T. 14 S., R. 12 W; T. 14 S., R. 14 W; T. 14 S., R. 15 W; T. 14 S., R. 16 W. (Portion); T. 15 S., R. 14 W; and T. 15 S., R. 15 W; (Portion) all of which is unsurveyed. Surveyed townships, or portions thereof, covered by the proposed Wilderness, include 27 with old rock corner surveys having practically no located monuments, 3 townships with rock corner surveys with a minor number of brass cap monuments, and 2 townships with complete brass cap surveys. Map locations of unsurveyed and rock monument section corners are generally approximate locations. All distances are map distances, and therefore are approximate.

Reference Mark Number 1: a U.S. Geological Survey benchmark and station disc., stamped "ELEVATION ABOVE SEA 9303 FEET DATUM PHONX VA" and located 3.303 feet west of the SE leg of the Black Mountain Lookout Tower is used as a reference point for this boundary description. This reference mark is set in a boulder projecting 8 inches above the surface of the ground.

Starting at a point on the boundary approximately 660 feet due east of Reference Mark 1 on the ridge extending from Black Mountain Lookout, the boundary runs northeasterly down a spur ridge 0.25 mile into Trap Corral Canyon to a drainage intersection at its head; thence northwesterly 0.25 mile on a spur ridge between the drainage heads to the main ridge between Trap Corral Canyon and Christie Canyon; thence northerly 0.15 mile to a high point on the ridge; thence northerly 0.60 mile, crossing the saddle between the head of Bell Canyon and a tributary of Christie Canyon, and following the ridge west of Bell Canyon to a high point (9192') overlooking Wolf Hollow to the north; thence northeasterly 1.5 miles down the main ridge line between Bell Canyon and Wolf Hollow, crossing a saddle to a high point (8452') where the ridge divides; thence southeasterly 0.25 mile into Bell Canyon to a point where Bell Canyon intersects with a steep western tributary; thence easterly 0.20 mile to a point where the steep ridge east of Bell Canyon levels into a saddle; thence northeasterly 0.30 mile on the ridge east of Bell Canyon, crossing the saddle to a high point overlooking Bell Canyon and a major southern tributary of this Canyon; thence southeasterly 0.30 mile intersecting this tributary at its only fork near its head; thence southerly 0.30 mile up a spur ridge to a high point on the ridge east of this tributary, located .05 mile east of the southwest corner of section 28, T. 10 S., R. 13 W; thence meandering northeasterly 1.3 miles down the ridge crossing two saddles, to a point where Bell Canyon intersects its next major tributary to the east; thence southeasterly up a spur ridge to a high point, then crossing a southern tributary of Bell Canyon at a major fork south of Reeds Tank, to the next tributary of Bell Canyon to the east, a total distance of 0.90 mile; thence northerly 0.65 mile down a broad ridge to Bell Canyon; thence easterly 1.0 mile following the center of the drainage bottom of Bell Canyon; thence southerly up a spur ridge to a high point south of Bell Canyon and easterly down a spur ridge to Bell Canyon, a total distance of 0.95 mile; thence southwesterly up a spur ridge, southeasterly along the breaks of Bell Canyon, and northeasterly down a spur ridge to Bell Canyon,

a total distance of 0.35 mile; thence generally southeasterly 1.5 miles up a spur ridge to the southern breaks of Bell Canyon and following the breaks to a mesa point overlooking the intersection of Bell Canyon and Beaver Creek;

thence meandering in a southerly direction following the rim west of Beaver Creek 3.2 miles crossing a tributary of Beaver Creek on opposite spur ridges to a knob overlooking the creek; thence westerly 0.2 mile; thence southwesterly 0.6 mile along the Beaver Creek rim, crossing upper Gate Canyon to the ridge between it and Deer Canyon; thence easterly down this ridge 0.3 mile to the mouth of Deer Canyon; thence westerly up the ridge south of Deer Canyon 0.3 mile; thence southerly and easterly along the rim above Beaver Creek, crossing a saddle and onto a high point overlooking Beaver Creek, a distance of 0.90 mile; thence 0.15 mile southeasterly into Beaver Creek Canyon to the mouth of a side drainage; thence southerly 0.15 mile out of the canyon on a spur ridge to the west rim of Beaver Creek; thence southeasterly, southwesterly and northwesterly a total of 0.8 mile along the rim of Beaver Creek and turning along the rim north of Trap Corral Canyon then southwesterly 0.3 mile crossing Trap Corral Canyon on opposite spur ridges to its southern rim; thence northwesterly 1.5 miles along the southern rim of Trap Corral Canyon; thence meandering southwesterly, following spur ridges and crossing a broad flat ridge on the contour a total of 2.0 miles to the breaks east of upper Tommy Hill Canyon;

thence south-southeasterly 4.4 miles along the top of the eastern breaks into Tommy Hill Canyon; thence crossing Tommy Hill Canyon on rock outcroppings and traveling 1.5 miles southerly following rock outcroppings to the point of a ridge overlooking the East Fork of the Gila River near its intersection with Cement Canyon; thence east-southeasterly 0.35 mile crossing the East Fork on opposite spur ridges to the bench above the river; thence southerly 0.70 mile to the ridge north of Diamond Creek; thence easterly 0.80 mile, first following this ridge and then crossing the heads of two minor, unnamed, north tributaries of Diamond Creek on opposite spur ridges to a point on the north canyon rim of Diamond Creek; thence meandering easterly along this rim 1.15 miles; thence southerly 0.25 mile, crossing Diamond Creek on opposite spur ridges to a high point on the south rim of Diamond Creek; thence southerly along the west rim of an unnamed tributary of Diamond Creek 0.10 mile; thence easterly 1.0 mile crossing two unnamed southern tributaries of Diamond Creek on opposite spur ridges; thence southeasterly 0.95 mile along the ridge between two unnamed southern tributary canyons of Diamond Creek to the divide between the Diamond Creek and Tom Moore drainages; thence southwesterly along this divide, 1.90 miles; thence southerly 1.50 miles down a ridge between two northern tributaries of Tom Moore Canyon to the bottom of Tom Moore Canyon; thence southerly 1.2 miles following a spur ridge out of Tom Moore Canyon to a high point overlooking the Tom Moore and Corral Canyon drainages; thence east-southeasterly 3.35 miles along the first continuous ridge north of Corral Canyon to a point at the southwestern tip of Middle Mesa overlooking Black Canyon;

thence easterly 1.65 miles following the southern edge of Middle Mesa where it breaks into Black Canyon; thence southerly 1.8 miles crossing Black Canyon and a major east-west tributary canyon on connecting spur ridges, to a large mesa cut by tributary canyons of Black Canyon; thence southwesterly and southeasterly 2.4 miles, intersecting spur canyon heads and crossing two unnamed southern tributaries of Black Canyon on spur ridges, to a point on the north rim of Squaw Creek;

thence northeasterly 1.8 miles along the Squaw Creek Rim; thence southeasterly .65 mile crossing Squaw Creek on opposite spur ridges up to a major ridge; thence southerly on this same major ridge crossing a series of high points and saddles, a total distance of 3.3 miles to a high point overlooking Rocky Canyon; thence southerly 0.3 mile across Rocky Canyon to a high point

between Rocky canyon and a southeasterly tributary canyon; thence south-southwesterly 0.4 mile crossing the tributary and up a spur ridge to a high point overlooking the head of Turkey Cienega Canyon; thence southwesterly down a ridge to the south rim of Rocky Canyon, and along this rim a total distance of 1.4 miles; thence southerly 2.05 miles down a ridge between Turkey Cienega Canyon and one of its major northern tributaries, to the intersection of the two drainages; thence southerly 0.35 mile up a spur ridge to the mesa rim south of Turkey Cienega Canyon; thence generally southwesterly following the western mesa edge and a ridge off the south end of the mesa 3.5 miles to the bottom of Turkey Cienega Canyon;

thence northwesterly leaving Turkey Cienega Canyon on a spur ridge, following the west edge of a mesa between the Rocky Canyon and Turkey Cienega Canyon drainages, crossing an eastern tributary of Rocky Canyon through its major headwater fork, a total distance of 2.5 miles and dropping into Rocky Canyon on a spur ridge; thence crossing Rocky Canyon north-northwesterly 1.60 miles up a ridge out of Rocky Canyon and following the western edge of this ridge, as it broadens, to a point overlooking the headwaters of Railroad Canyon; thence westerly 1.95 miles crossing a major eastern tributary of Railroad Canyon and Railroad Canyon itself on opposite spur ridges, to a point along the western breaks of Railroad Canyon; thence northerly 1.75 miles following the top of steep slopes west of Railroad Canyon to the divide between Railroad Canyon and Apache Canyon; thence northwesterly 3.4 miles crossing the heads of southern tributaries of Apache Canyon on opposite spur ridges, some of which are poorly defined, to a high point (7552') approximately 0.65 mile northeast of Buck Hannen Mountain; thence northerly 0.35 mile crossing an unnamed southern tributary of Apache Canyon to another high point to the north; thence westerly 0.20 mile across a saddle to a spur ridge which drops to the north into Jordan Canyon; thence northerly 1.40 miles crossing three headwater canyons of Jordan Canyon on opposite spur ridges; thence northerly 3.05 miles along the western rim of Jordan Canyon — Black Canyon drainages to a point overlooking the Gila River East Fork; thence east 0.80 mile crossing Black Canyon on opposite spur ridges to the major ridge line east of Black Canyon; thence northeasterly 0.40 mile crossing an unnamed tributary of the East Fork on opposite spur ridges to the ridge south of Corral Canyon; thence northeasterly 0.20 mile crossing Corral Canyon on spur ridges to the rim of the East Fork; thence northerly 0.40 mile along the east rim of the East Fork; thence westerly 0.6 mile down a sharp spur ridge into the bottom of the East Fork of the Gila River and out of the canyon on an opposite spur ridge; thence northerly 0.9 mile up a sharp ridge to an intersecting point of a mesa overlooking the East Fork; thence westerly 2.5 miles along rock outcroppings forming the breaks into the East Fork and crossing several tributary canyons on spur ridges to a high point east of Picket Corral Canyon; thence 0.8 mile northwesterly crossing Picket Corral Canyon on opposite spur ridges to the main ridge west of this canyon; thence northerly 2.2 miles along this ridge to the breaks of an unnamed eastern tributary of the Middle Fork of the Gila River; thence meandering northwesterly along the southern breaks of this tributary 1.5 miles to a point on the rim overlooking the Middle Fork of the Gila River. This point is at the northeast corner of land owned by the State of New Mexico. Thence westerly crossing the Middle Fork to a saddle on the opposite rim and continuing to the breaks west of the saddle a total distance of 0.5 mile; thence northwesterly 0.6 mile to a high point; thence westerly 1.6 miles, following low spur ridges across Adobe Canyon and along rock outcroppings to the northwest corner of Section 26, T. 12 S., R. 14 W., and the intersecting east boundary of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument; thence north 0.25 mile along the Monument boundary to its northeast corner; thence west 0.75 mile along the north boundary of the Monument to its northwest corner; thence south 1.0 mile along the west boundary of the Monument to its southwest corner; thence east 0.75 mile along the south Monument boundary to its southeast corner; thence north 0.45 mile along the east Monument boundary to its intersection with the south rim of Cliff Dweller Canyon thence southeasterly 1.3 miles along the rim of the West Fork of the Gila River crossing several deep side canyons; thence southeasterly along the bluffs of the West Fork of the Gila River 1.9 miles,

intersecting the heads of short drainages and crossing several longer drainages on spur ridges; thence easterly 0.8 mile along the ridge between the West Fork and Little Creek, crossing Little Creek and Bull Spring Canyon on opposite spur ridges; thence southerly 0.65 mile along the ridge between Bull Spring Canyon and the West Fork of the Gila River;

thence southerly 1.15 miles along the west rim of the West Fork of the Gila River, crossing an unnamed tributary canyon of the river on opposite spur ridges to a high point on the ascending ridge; thence southeasterly 1.05 miles down a long ridge to the Gila River, crossing the river and ascending an opposite spur ridge to the bluffs east of the river; thence southerly 1.15 miles along rock bluffs east of the Gila River and leaving the river as it bends to the west, dropping into an eastern tributary stream; thence southerly 3.2 miles climbing a ridge toward Copperas Peak; thence southerly 3.4 miles on a series of connecting ridges east of Copperas Creek down to this Creek; thence southerly 1.1 miles leaving Copperas Creek to the west, following a series of ridges and returning to the Creek; thence easterly 0.3 mile out of Copperas Creek to a ridge east of the Creek; thence southwesterly 1.3 miles along this ridge crossing Copperas Creek on opposite spur ridges to a point overlooking Sapillo Creek; thence south-southwesterly 0.45 mile crossing Sapillo Creek on opposite spur ridges to the southern rim of Sapillo Creek; thence 0.15 mile westerly along this rim; thence southwesterly 0.2 mile crossing a side drainage of Sapillo Creek and returning to the rim; thence westerly 2.0 miles along the southern rim of Sapillo Creek to a point overlooking the Trout Creek drainage;

thence southeasterly 5.7 miles following the eastern rim of Trout Creek, around Wild Horse Mesa and below State Highway 25 to a major headwater fork of Trout Creek; thence northwesterly 2.2 miles following the western rim of Trout Creek to a point west of Meadow, Az; thence southeasterly and northwesterly 5.7 miles along the rim around the heads of three unnamed eastern tributary canyons of the west fork of Trout Creek, to a high point on the ridge west of the third tributary; thence meandering westerly and northerly 4.25 miles; crossing an unnamed tributary of Trout Creek, and following the southwestern rim of the Trout Creek drainage to the point of a sharp north-south ridge dividing the Trout Creek and Cow Creek drainages;

thence southerly 1.90 miles along the east rim of the main Cow Creek drainage; thence westerly 0.20 mile crossing Cow Creek at a major headwater fork on opposite spur ridges; thence northerly 0.55 mile along the west rim of Cow Creek to a high point; thence westerly 0.55 mile on a spur ridge descending into the west canyon of Cow Creek at a major fork intersection; thence southeasterly 1.45 miles ascending out of the west canyon of Cow Creek and along the Cow Creek drainage rim; thence northerly crossing a southwestern tributary of Cow Creek on opposite ridges and following the western rim of the Cow Creek drainage 2.20 miles; thence westerly following the Cow Creek drainage rim around two western tributaries of Cow Creek to a point on the main divide between the Cow Creek drainage and Sheep Corral Canyon, a total distance of 1.45 miles; thence southwesterly 0.50 mile along the eastern rim of Sheep Corral Canyon; thence westerly 0.30 mile crossing Sheep Corral Canyon; thence northerly 1.05 miles along Sheep Corral Canyon rim to a point overlooking the Snow Creek drainage;

thence southwesterly 1.10 miles along the eastern rim above Snow Creek and dropping to the creek on a spur ridge; thence southwesterly 0.3 mile to a broad ridge west of Snow Creek; thence westerly 0.8 mile to a high point on this broad ridge; thence southerly 0.35 mile to Goose Ridge; thence westerly 4.6 miles along Goose Ridge to Seep Springs Gap; thence westerly 3.7 miles along rim rock outcroppings south of Goose Ridge to a point overlooking the heads of Spar Canyon and Brock Canyon;

thence northwesterly 1.1 miles down the ridge between Brock and Spar Canyons, to a high point overlooking Brock Canyon, and crossing to a high point north of Brock Canyon; thence northwesterly 0.9 mile following rock outcroppings and knobs to a high point overlooking Crow Canyon; thence northerly 0.4 mile crossing Crow Canyon to a high point north of the drainage; thence northeasterly 0.3 mile up a ridge to the south rim above the Gila River; thence northeasterly 1.2 miles along this rim; thence northerly 0.45 mile dropping into and across the Gila River up to a bluff top north of the river; thence westerly and northerly 0.65 mile along the bluff top into the Turkey Creek drainage; thence westerly 0.4 mile crossing Turkey Creek drainage to a high point west of the creek; thence southwesterly 1.2 miles, crossing side canyons on rock outcroppings and low ridges to a rocky knob 0.4 mile north of the Gila River; thence westerly 2.3 miles following rock outcroppings and a connecting ridge; thence southwesterly 0.8 mile down a spur ridge to Canteen Canyon; thence north-northwesterly 3.3 miles following the toe of the breaks east of Mogollon Creek to Davis Canyon; thence north 0.9 mile along the Gila National Forest boundary to the northeast corner of Section 3, T. 14 S., R. 17 W; thence west on the Gila National Forest boundary 0.85 mile crossing Fall Canyon to the ridge west of the canyon; thence northwesterly 1.1 miles up the ridge west of Fall Canyon; thence southwesterly 0.4 mile down an intersecting ridge to an unnamed tributary of Mogollon Creek; thence northwesterly 3.3 miles along the ridge northeast of Mogollon Creek, dropping to the toe of the steep slope northeast of Mogollon Creek;

thence northerly along the Gila National Forest boundary 0.10 mile to an intersecting spur ridge; thence northerly 0.55 mile crossing an unnamed side canyon of Mogollon Creek on opposite spur ridges to the point on the main ridge line above Mogollon Creek, approximately 1 mile west of Seventy-four Mountain; thence westerly on a spur ridge to the Gila National Forest boundary and north along this boundary to the northeast corner of Section 13, T. 13 S., R. 18 W., a total distance of 0.35 mile; thence west along the Gila National Forest boundary a distance of 1 mile to the northwest corner of Section 13, T. 13 S., R. 18 W; thence northwesterly 0.30 mile up a ridge to a high point overlooking Rain Creek; thence westerly 0.25 mile down a spur ridge into Rain Creek; thence northwesterly 1.6 miles following a series of ridge lines out of Rain Creek and into Cherry Canyon intersecting the canyon at its major headwater fork; thence northwesterly 1.25 miles following connecting ridges out of Cherry Canyon and into Minton Canyon; thence northerly 1.5 miles out of Minton Canyon on a series of connecting ridges to rock outcroppings east of Sacaton Creek; thence northwesterly 0.3 mile following rock outcroppings around an eastern side of Sacaton Creek; thence northwesterly 0.3 mile crossing Sacaton Creek on spur ridges to a sharp ridge between this creek and a western tributary; thence northwesterly 0.4 mile on this ridge and crossing the tributary on spur ridges to a point on the ridge north of Lone Pine Hill; thence northerly 0.9 mile up the ridge to a point overlooking Little Dry Creek; thence northwesterly 1.1 miles crossing Little Dry Creek on opposite ridges to Queens Crown; thence southwesterly 2.5 miles on a series of connecting ridge lines, dropping into the bottom of Big Dry Creek; thence northwesterly 0.85 mile, ascending a ridge out of Big Dry Creek, through several rock pinnacles to a pronounced bluff, one-half mile south of Sheridan Mountain;

thence westerly 2.10 miles following the bluff and a series of opposite spur ridges crossing the head of one unnamed western tributary of Big Dry Creek, to a point on the eastern headwater fork of Garolen Gulch; thence northerly 0.70 mile out of Garolen Gulch on a series of ridge lines to a point overlooking Sheridan Gulch; thence northwesterly 0.45 mile crossing Sheridan Gulch on opposite spur ridges to a high point (6750'), on the ridge between Sheridan Gulch and S Dugway Canyon; thence northerly 0.30 mile crossing an eastern tributary of S. Dugway Canyon on rock outcroppings; thence westerly 0.30 mile, crossing S Dugway Canyon on opposite spur ridges; thence northwesterly 0.20 mile along the contour to a point on an east-west ridge; thence westerly 1.20 miles crossing Goat Corral Canyon on opposite spur ridges to a high point (6881') and descending a ridge to the south fork of Red Colt Canyon;

thence northwesterly 0.20 mile through one high point and to a second high point between the forks of Red Colt Canyon; thence northerly 0.15 mile crossing the north fork of Red Colt Canyon to another high point; thence easterly 0.20 mile through a saddle to another high point overlooking Goddard Canyon; thence northerly 1.75 miles crossing Goddard Canyon to a high point, through a saddle and along the west face of Wilcox Peak on rock outcroppings, and crossing a northern tributary of Goddard Canyon on opposite spur ridges to Gold Hill; thence northerly 0.60 mile crossing Holt Gulch and ascending to the western tip of a flat ridge between Holt Gulch and the south fork of Shelton Canyon; thence northwesterly 1.10 miles down the ridge south of this tributary of Shelton Canyon, crossing the tributary and Shelton Canyon on spur ridges to the ridge north of Shelton Canyon; thence easterly 0.55 mile ascending a ridge to a point on an intersecting north-south ridge.

thence northerly 0.7 mile crossing Little Whitewater Creek on opposite spur ridges to the main ridge line north of this drainage; thence westerly 0.20 mile down this ridge; thence northwesterly 0.90 mile following a series of ridge lines, high points, and rock outcroppings to a high point (6490') overlooking Deer Park Canyon; thence northeasterly 0.80 mile crossing Deer Park Canyon and ascending an opposite ridge; thence north-northwesterly 2.90 miles following a series of connecting ridges, rock outcroppings, and knobs to a high point (6641') overlooking Whitewater Creek; thence easterly 1.6 miles following rock outcroppings to the edge of steep breaks into Whitewater Creek, along the breaks and down a spur ridge to the South Fork of Whitewater Creek; thence 0.4 mile southeasterly up the sharp ridge between Whitewater Creek and its south fork to Cardinal Cap; thence 0.7 mile northerly crossing Whitewater Creek and a northern tributary, on rock outcroppings and spur ridges to the west end of a sheer rock escarpment facing Whitewater Creek; thence easterly 0.15 mile along the top of the escarpment to its highest point; thence northerly 0.2 mile up a spur ridge to the main divide between Silver Creek and Whitewater Creek; thence easterly 8.5 miles along this main divide to a high point between the Mineral Creek and Willow Creek drainages; thence east-northeasterly 2.0 miles down the ridge north of Willow Creek; thence easterly 0.30 mile crossing Willow Creek at its intersection with a major southern tributary to the top of the north-facing slope south of Willow Creek;

thence northeasterly 3.2 miles along the top of the north-facing slope of Willow Creek; thence southeasterly 0.3 mile crossing Little Turkey Creek on opposite spur ridges; thence northeasterly 1.4 miles along the top of the north-facing slope of Willow and Gilita Creeks; thence northerly 0.3 mile crossing Gilita Creek on opposite spur ridges, to the rim north of Gilita Creek; thence easterly 4.6 miles along the north rim of Gilita Creek and down the ridge between Gilita Creek and Snow Canyon to the intersection of these streams to form the Middle Fork of the Gila River; thence northeasterly 0.3 mile to the ridge north of the Middle Fork; thence easterly 2.6 miles along the main divide to Loco Mountain; thence southerly 2.6 miles following a low ridge and then along the top of the breaks into Porcupine Canyon, to the tip of Aeroplane Mesa; thence easterly 0.5 mile along the south edge of Aeroplane Mesa; thence northerly 1.0 mile along the east edge of Aeroplane Mesa to the intersection of two headwater drainages of the west fork of Flying V Canyon; thence northerly 1.95 miles following a low ridge to a high point (8159') and passing through two saddles to another high point (8231'); thence southeasterly 1.90 miles following a low ridge to its intersection with Flying V Canyon; thence easterly 1.40 miles crossing two eastern tributaries of Flying V Canyon, through a high point (7758') to the west rim of Canyon Creek; thence northerly 0.15 mile along the west rim of Canyon Creek; thence easterly 0.20 mile along the west rim of Canyon Creek; thence southerly 0.20 mile crossing Canyon Creek on opposite spur ridges to the east rim; thence 0.35 mile along the east rim of Canyon Creek; thence southwesterly 0.45 mile following the east rim of Canyon Creek to an intersecting ridge; thence easterly 3.3 miles following a series of ridges, canyon rims and saddles and passing over the survey monument common to the southwest corner of Section 31, T. 10 S., R. 14 W., and the SE corner of Section

36. T. 10 S., R. 15 W; thence southerly 1.4 miles along a series of low ridges crossing three western tributaries of Indian Creek; thence easterly 0.35 mile down a low spur ridge to the rim overlooking a north tributary of Indian Creek; thence northeasterly along this rim 0.2 mile; thence easterly 0.20 mile crossing this tributary to the main ridge west of Indian Creek; thence northeasterly on this ridge to a point overlooking Ten Cow Canyon, and crossing Ten Cow Canyon on opposite spur ridges to the ridge between Ten Cow Canyon and Indian Creek, a total distance of 1.60 miles;

thence northerly on this ridge 0.45 mile; thence easterly 0.30 mile crossing the Indian Creek Drainage on opposite spur ridges to the ridge between this drainage and Bull Pass Canyon; thence northeasterly 0.50 mile ascending the ridge northwest of Bull Pass Canyon; thence northeasterly 0.20 mile crossing Bull Pass Canyon on opposite spur ridges, at its intersection with Christie Canyon; thence 1.15 miles along the north rim of Christie Canyon; thence southeasterly 3.00 miles crossing Christie Canyon and ascending the ridge south of Christie Canyon to a point 660 feet west-northwest of Reference Mark Number 1;

thence on a radius of 660 feet measured from Reference Point Number 1, following in a counterclockwise direction, south of the reference point, intersecting with the ridge east of Black Mountain Lookout, and the point of beginning.

This area included is 544,164 gross acres, more or less, with 543,474 acres being National Forest land and 690 acres being privately-owned land within the described boundary.

APPENDIX B
VIEWS OF OTHER AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS

EXHIBIT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VI
1600 PATTERSON, SUITE 1100
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

November 29, 1972

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
Forest Service, Region 3
U.S. Department of Agriculture
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101


Dear Mr. Hurst:

We have reviewed your agency's Draft Environmental Statement for the proposed legislation affecting certain lands within the Gila National Forest, New Mexico. The proposal is that portions of the Gila Primitive Area be designated as Gila Wilderness and added to the existing Gila Wilderness, as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is also proposed that certain lands contiguous to the Primitive Area and/or existing Wilderness be similarly designated and added to the Gila Wilderness Area. Also, certain land within both the Primitive and Wilderness Areas be declassified. The proposal is to classify 514,678 acres of Forest Service lands in Catron and Grant Counties and 610 acres of private land in Grant County, all in southwestern New Mexico, as a wilderness.

You and your staff are to be commended on your efforts and presentation of the Environmental Impact Statement. We believe the report is an outstanding example of the "full disclosure" intent of the National Environmental Policy Act. Our only comment is to emphasize the continuing need for proper land use management as a measure to prevent and abate water, air, and noise pollution and deterioration of the natural resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the statement. Please send us one copy of the final statement when it is available.

Sincerely yours,


Arthur W. Busch
Regional Administrator

cc: Richard C. Johnson
Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
301 West College Avenue
Silver City, New Mexico 88061



EXHIBIT

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JAN 24 1973

ER-72/1232

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In regard to your letter of October 16, 1972, requesting review of the Gila Wilderness Proposal Brochure and Draft Environmental Statement we have the following comments:

1. The subject environmental statement without the brochure does not adequately describe the proposal. We suggest the information contained in the brochure be included in the statement or that the brochure be made a formal appendix of the environmental statement.
2. Wilderness people would like to see the large Gila Primitive Area exclusions (map items 5 and 6) retained as primitive area or converted to wilderness. This major alternative has not been discussed as a separate possibility. It is only passed over lightly in alternative 4, page 19, by stating that not all possible addition-deletion combinations have been considered since there are so many combinations. However, items 5 and 6 would seem to warrant further discussion.

The draft statement proposes reclassification of 65,604 acres from existing Primitive Area status and 1,695 acres from existing wilderness status because of the "substantial imprint of man and his activities." Under the Wilderness Act and Forest Service regulations, primitive areas are to be given the same high degree of protection as wilderness areas until such times as they are studied and Congress has an opportunity to act upon the wilderness proposal. There seems to be a contradiction when the statement says, "Trammeling by man has destroyed the wilderness resource on the majority of the 65,604 acres ... proposed for declassification" and when the statement says, "Wilderness designation as proposed would preserve an enduring resource of wilderness, not only within the existing Gila Wilderness but for surrounding lands with a long history of similar management."

3. From the standpoint of mineral resources, we believe both the brochure and the environmental statement are lacking. The mineral survey of the Bureau of Mines - Geological Survey was made in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act and required about 6 man-years of professional effort. We believe that in order to be truly objective the proposal and the environmental statement should weigh the positive aspects of mineral potential in the area as well as the negative.

EXHIBIT

Until the Geological Survey - Bureau of Mines mineral survey can be published, its interim open-file form, released in time for the upcoming Forest Service public hearing, limits its availability. The Department of the Interior's official statement, which is to be presented at the public hearing, best sums the results of the mineral study and we recommend its inclusion, minus its first paragraph, in Section I, Description, of the environmental statement. We are attaching a copy of this statement.

4. Page 4, A.2., 1st sentence: We suggest you provide support for the yield figure of "25,000 acre-feet" of water.

5. Page 13, Item I., 2nd sentence: We suggest the phrase "the proposed Hooker Dam site and reservoir outside of the proposed Wilderness" be clarified.

If this statement is correct, then the map in the brochure should be corrected to show the exclusion line above the maximum reservoir water surface elevation as well as that area around the perimeter required for operation and maintenance of the reservoir. If the statement is incorrect, we suggest the area to be inundated by the proposed Hooker Reservoir be excluded from wilderness status to avoid future conflict of interests. Hooker Dam is part of the Central Arizona Project authorized by Public Law 90-537. We suggest that this information also be presented on page 4, Section A.2.

6. In Section II, Environmental Impacts, we believe part of the economic reasoning is deceiving. On page 6 is the statement, "In order to protect the wilderness resource, restrictions on the method of extracting any discovered mineral deposits within wilderness would increase costs of development and thus contribute less to the gross national product." This is incorrect in that the contribution to the gross national product (GNP) is the value of the mineral products that reach the consuming market. In the sense that the profit margin will be affected by higher direct and indirect exploration, development and production costs, which subsequently might curtail or preclude development, it might be considered that non-mining would be a loss to GNP. We recommend that the quoted and subsequent sentences be deleted.

7. We believe that the third paragraph under Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources is reversed in its approach. As we understand the intent of this part of an environmental statement, the irreversible and irretrievable commitments to be discussed are those concerning the proposal and not those of an alternative. The commitments that should be discussed in this part of the statement should be the losses in not developing the timber, minerals, water, and recreation resources that must be foregone under wilderness classification, rather than discussing why these developments should not take place.

EXHIBIT

8. Subject brochure, section on Resources, Water: It is suggested that the quantitative value of 75,000 acre-feet of surface runoff be checked for its accuracy. Forty-three years of U.S. Geological Survey records at the Gila gage show an average flow of approximately 92,700 acre-feet just outside the wilderness. In addition, we suggest that some mention be made of the high fluoride content of the water in relation to water quality.

9. Subject brochure. Primitive Area Exclusion 10: We suggest that Primitive Area Exclusion 10 in the narrative and on the map should be clarified with respect to the subject environmental statement language on pages 4 and 5 relating to the authorized Central Arizona Project and the Hooker Dam and Reservoir.

10. On pages 5, 8, and 13 of the statement, remarks are made which suggest that cloud seeding is incompatible with wilderness.

On page 5, line 7, the following statement is found: Weather modification projects to produce additional or more timely flows of water must be foregone with wilderness designation.

On page 8, paragraph 4, line 9, we note: "...projects such as weather modification... will be required to locate these projects or facilities elsewhere."

Page 13, paragraph F is quoted: "Projects representing modern technology and progress for man's benefit (social and economic) may be incompatible with wilderness. Any permanent facility or improvement and activity that is not allowed for in the Wilderness Act must be foregone. This would include future highways, transmission lines, electronic sites, and weather modification in or adjacent to the area if there are impacts upon the area. There are no plans at the present time or in the foreseeable future for these kinds of projects."

Whether cloud seeding, which induces additional precipitation over a Wilderness Area, constitutes a violation of the Wilderness Act is a question which has been raised in connection with several field programs of the Bureau of Reclamation's Project Skywater. The Assistant Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, Associate Solicitor for the Division of Parks and Recreation (Interior), and Associate Solicitor, Water and Power Resources (Interior), met in December 1971 to investigate this question. They concluded that, "specifically, the Act does not have any express prohibition, but the sense of the Congress, as expressed in the Act, is to preserve such areas in their natural condition." It was tentatively agreed that "if the cloud seeding or

EXHIBIT

weather modification program only produced a transitory, insignificant impact on the ecology of the area, it would not be contrary to the provisions of the Act."

This matter has not been resolved as yet. Research and study is currently underway to determine impacts of weather modification on the environment. Until the results of these are available, we feel that it is premature to state such activities are permanently excluded from wilderness areas.

11. The final statement should include a sentence indicating that the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and that no National Register properties will be affected by the proposal. Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, adjoins the Gila Wilderness.

12. The final statement should include a discussion of steps taken to comply with Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593 of May 13, 1971.

13. The final statement should include the need to ask Congress for the right of condemnation in regard to the problem reviewed in the Forest Service draft environmental statement on the proposal to exchange lands between the U.S. Government and John Hamilton, Jr., Gila National Forest, New Mexico.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) W. W. Lyons

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Richard C. Johnson
Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
301 West College Avenue
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Enclosure:

Encl. 1 - Departmental Public Hearings Statement

HAROLD RUNNELS
2ND DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1728 LONGWORTH BUILDING
AREA CODE 202: 225-2365

COMMITTEE:
ARMED SERVICES

EXHIBIT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:

SUITE D, McCRORY BUILDING
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260
AREA CODE 505: 396-2252

SUITE 1022, FIRST NATIONAL TOWER
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001
AREA CODE 505: 526-6156

CITY HALL, P.O. Box 877
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO 87301
AREA CODE 505: 863-3400

October 20, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
Forest Service, Region 3
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

I have received your letter and the material you enclosed relating to the Gila Primitive Area.

I appreciate receiving this information and will keep it on hand for reference. Of course, I intend to follow activities relating to this proposal in the months to come and would appreciate receiving any further information distributed concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



HAROLD RUNNELS, M.C.

tma

CLINTON P. ANDERSON, N. MEX., CHAIRMAN
WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH. CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR.
STUART SYMINGTON, MO. MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE
JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS. BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV. LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.
DAVID H. GAMBRELL, GA. KARL E. MUNDT, S. DAK.
JAMES J. GEHRIG, STAFF DIRECTOR

EXHIBIT

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE SCIENCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 24, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Bill:

I appreciate very much your forwarding me a copy of your proposal that portion of the Gila Primitive Area be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Since I will be leaving Washington very shortly, I am making the material you forwarded to me available to the incoming Senator.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,


Clinton P. Anderson

EXHIBIT

P. O. Box 2007, Albuquerque, NM 87103

November 8, 1972

Mr. John R. McGuire, Chief
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Mr. McGuire:

The proposal for additions to the Gila Wilderness located within the Gila National Forest, Catron and Grant counties, State of New Mexico, and the draft environmental statement, addressed to Kenneth E. Grant, Administrator, Soil Conservation Service, were referred to me for review and comment.

The proposed project is well described and the draft environmental statement adequately covers aspects that would be of concern to the Soil Conservation Service. The permanent exclusion of motorized travel and water forecasting facilities is pointed out as an adverse effect of the proposed project. This would indeed be lamentable in the event of a critical future need to monitor the snow pack in the area. However, there are no such facilities planned by the Service for the foreseeable future.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely yours,



Marion E. Strong
State Conservationist
N.M. State Soil Conservation Office

cc:

Mr. D. Hurst, Reg. Director, USFS, Albuquerque, NM
Kenneth E. Grant, Admin., SCS, Washington, D. C.
Dr. T. C. Byerly, Coordinator of Environmental Quality Activities,
Office of Sec., USDA, Washington, D. C.
Council on Environmental Quality (10 copies)



EXHIBIT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SANTA FE

87501

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

November 1, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst, Regional Forester
Region III
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, South West
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 1972, concerning the proposed increase of acreage to be included in the Gila Wilderness. Your information will be beneficial in reviewing this proposal.

The Gila Wilderness is definitely a very fragile area in our state. The future of this unique region is typical of many of our natural areas. Without adequate protection, many of these exceptional lands of our state and nation will be a memory of the past.

In order to assure comprehensive review of your proposal, I have requested my State Planning Officer, David King, and his staff to research the various aspects of this plan. The results of their recommendations will be forwarded to you as they are completed.

Please be assured that a representative of the State Planning Office will attend one of the two public hearings in December.

We appreciate receiving this information. If further developments occur, please keep us informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce King".

BRUCE KING
Governor

cc: State Clearinghouse
Mr. Bill Kreuch
Mr. William Gentry

STATE OF NEW MEXICO



STATE PLANNING OFFICE

SANTA FE

BRUCE KING
GOVERNORLEO GRIEGO
DEPUTY STATE PLANNING OFFICERDAVID W. KING
STATE PLANNING OFFICER

January 12, 1973

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
United States Forest Service
Region 3
517 Gold Avenue S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

The State Planning Office has received the draft of the environmental statement concerning Gila Wilderness reclassification. Copies of the draft were sent to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the Park and Recreation Commission, the Environmental Improvement Agency, and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments. There were certain concerns expressed by some of the responding agencies but they all basically support the Forest Service proposal.

The Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments supports the Forest Service proposal if the acquired land will lead to more efficient management of the whole area. The Southwest Council of Governments also believes not acquiring land just to increase the size of the overall area is the approach for better management.

The Environmental Improvement Agency is of the opinion that the Forest Service should reconsider its recommendation eliminating "parcels 5 and 6" from the existing Gila Primitive Area. They believe that "Minor human intrusions of a rather transient nature do not constitute sufficient reason to eliminate such a large tract of otherwise wilderness area". They also felt that many of the proposed additions (AA through LL) are worthy of wilderness designation and should be given serious consideration.

The Department of Game and Fish supports the proposal as written.

The Parks and Recreation Commission supports the proposal but is of the opinion that sections 5 and 6 should be given wilderness classification.

EXHIBIT

Mr. William D. Hurst
January 12, 1973
Page 2

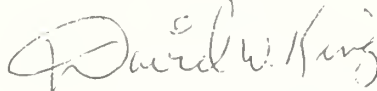
In considering the boundary change for the Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Area the State Planning Office feels that a cautious approach should be taken. It is better to give wilderness status to the Primitive Area now, given the substantial and reasonable arguments in its favor than to remove it from this consideration for all time. At a future date when it is proved conclusively that an area is not worthy of wilderness status then at that time it can be reclassified. We would therefore suggest that areas five, six, fourteen, and sixteen be reconsidered for inclusion into the Wilderness system. The lands in the Primitive Area exhibiting human impact are not of an irreversible sort and through proper management may be brought back to a natural state. As stated by Governor King, "Without adequate protection, many of these exceptional lands of our state and nation will be a memory of the past". We feel this adequate protection must be given.

At the hearings held in Silver City there was no grass roots opposition to the Forest Service proposal to include the Gila Primitive Area in the Wilderness system. The real opposition seemed that of vested interest groups. Because of the short term basis of mining and its eventual demise in any area supported by this interest, it seems advantageous to maintain those areas which would encourage the growth of tourism and enjoyment of the outdoor experience; those will be the important activities in the future and will provide revenue on a long term basis.

Consideration should be given for inclusion of Primitive Area lands in Wilderness status because of losses to the wilderness in the past and such potential losses as lands inundated by the proposed Hooker Dam Site.

If this Office can be of any further help, please let us know. We would be interested in any future developments on the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David W. King".

David W. King
State Planning Officer

DWK/JS/ns



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE ENGINEER OFFICE

SANTA FE

S. E. REYNOLDS
STATE ENGINEER

Bataan Memorial Buildi
STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

December 12, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service-Region 3
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Mr. Hurst:

The following comments are offered in response to the invitation of your October 16 transmittal of data and information on the proposal to add portions of the Gila Primitive Area and other contiguous lands to the National Wilderness Preservation system.

Subparagraph A.2 at page 4 of the "Draft Environmental Statement" that you furnished says in part:

". . . . New water-regulating structures, power installations, and related improvements are subject to approval of the President. Opportunities do exist for hydro-electric power developments and water conservation and storage projects along the main Gila River. However, only the Hooker Dam site outside of the proposed Wilderness has approached initial stages of planning. This dam, proposed as a part of the Central Arizona Project of the Bureau of Reclamation for location on the Gila River downstream from the proposed Wilderness, would create a reservoir that would flood only a minor portion of the area at maximum pool level."

EXHIBIT

Mr. William D. Hurst
December 12, 1972
Page 2

Paragraph I. on page 13 of the "Draft Environmental Statement" says:

"At this time, there are no known feasible water yield or development structures for water regulation or power purposes planned within the proposed Wilderness. Federal power withdrawals exist along the Gila River and its major tributaries, as well as on the proposed Hooker Dam site and reservoir outside of the proposed Wilderness. Any future project will require Presidential approval which may result in delays causing adverse social and/or economic impacts."

The passages quoted suggest that the author of the "Draft Environmental Statement" may not be aware that the construction of a dam and reservoir at the Hooker site, which at maximum water level would inundate small portions of the existing Gila Primitive Area and Gila Wilderness Area, has been authorized. The Hooker unit of the Central Arizona Project was authorized by legislation approved by the 90th Congress. The President's signing of the bill authorized the Central Arizona Project, including the Hooker Dam and Reservoir Unit, and provided the Presidential determination required by Section 4 (d) (4) of the Wilderness Act (PL 88-577).

I recommend that, to avoid the inclusion of an area influenced by man's activities, the portion of the Gila Primitive Area that would be inundated by Hooker Reservoir at maximum water level be excluded from the proposed additions to the Gila Wilderness Area. The area thus excluded would be about 150 acres along Turkey Creek and the Gila River below about elevation 5200 feet.

There appears to be a basis for concern that the practice of extinguishing lightning-caused fires in wilderness areas allows a buildup of underbrush and other fuel to create a condition that is inconsistent with the Congressional concept of a wilderness "as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man," and which reduces the water yield of the areas.

Under the heading "Effects of Wilderness Classification" in your brochure, "A Proposal-Gila Wilderness, Gila National Forest, New Mexico" there is the statement that "no serious forest fire, insect, or disease problems exist for the portion of the area proposed as wilderness." If the conditions of underbrush and

EXHIBIT

Mr. William D. Hurst

December 12, 1972

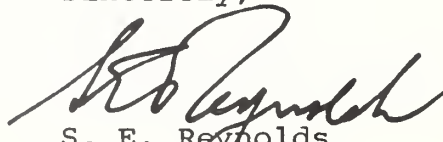
Page 3

other fuel in the areas proposed to be added to the wilderness reasonably approximate primeval conditions and there are no serious forest fire problems in those areas, I strongly urge that the Forest Service adopt a policy of not extinguishing lightning-caused fires in those areas. I recognize that fire control over many years in the existing Gila Wilderness probably has resulted in the accumulation of a fuel supply so abundant that it would not be prudent at this time to terminate the control of forest fires in that area. However, I recommend that as areas within the existing wilderness return to natural conditions as a result of unplanned fires or as a result of controlled burning the policy of not extinguishing lightning-caused fires be adopted also in those areas.

The "Draft Environmental Statement" (Paragraphs II.A.2., II.B.4., and IV.F.) seems to contemplate that no facilities for weather modification activities would be allowed within the proposed wilderness areas or allowed to operate outside those areas if they would have any effect on the wilderness areas. Consideration of the techniques currently used in weather modification activities suggests that enforcement of a rule prohibiting the use of a wilderness area as a target area in efforts to increase precipitation might be impractical. Furthermore, it does not appear that the additional precipitation that can reasonably be expected from man's efforts to augment precipitation could significantly affect the primeval character of wilderness areas. I recommend that no attempt be made to preclude the use of wilderness areas as target areas in activities directed toward precipitation augmentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed modifications of the boundaries of the Gila Wilderness Area.

Sincerely,



S. E. Reynolds
State Engineer

SER:lm1

EXHIBIT

DANIEL LYON
BERNALILLO COUNTY
DISTRICT 8
808 SILVER AVE., S.E.
BUSINESS PHONE 243-3302
HOME PHONE 242-4302
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102



COMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN:
ENROLLING & ENGROSSING (A)
MEMBER:
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
RULES & ORDER OF BUSINESS
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
Santa Fe

December 19, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

As a State Representative from Bernalillo County, I have become painfully aware of the need for urban man to periodically escape from the concrete surroundings he has constructed about him to the peace and quiet and splendor of the wilderness. I have seen the skyrocketing trend of wilderness use as we pave and divide more of our open space.

In view of this growing demand for wilderness recreation and the decreasing amount of land available to us as potential wilderness areas, I do not think it wise to remove 65,000 acres of the Gila Trinitite Area from wilderness-type protection. I wholeheartedly endorse and support the Joint Conservationists' Gila Wilderness Proposal of 614,919 acres. I hope the Forest Service will give serious consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel Lyon".
Daniel Lyon

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

CATRON COUNTY

RESERVE, NEW MEXICO 87830

BERT A. ATWOOD
CLERK - 533-6400
RLENE J. KELLY
TREASURER - 533-6384
TTY RADVILLAS
ASSESSOR - 533-6577
M. D. FRYER
PROBATE JUDGE
RNON D. MCCARTY
SHERIFF - 533-6222

ADRIAN BROCKMAN
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT NO. 1

OLIVER M. LEE III
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT NO. 2

GEORGE THACKER
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT NO. 3

ENID D. MCCARGISH
MAGISTRATE - DISTRICT NO. 1

November 10, 1972

Mr. William Hurst
Regional Supervisor
517 Gold Ave. SW
Albuquerque, N.M.

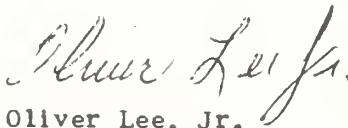
Dear Sir:

Although we realize that under the law the Forest Service, USDA, has been given a mandate to study and classify all possible areas that might be included within the Wilderness system, and that given a certain criteria for determining such areas, the Forest Service has done so in a fair and impartial manner, we must again register our objection.

From any aspect whether it be conservation, recreation, or commercial, all available information points to a detrimental effect. From only one standpoint can wilderness classification be justified and this is pure preservation from an aesthetic outlook.

With the serious dwindling of our natural resources and the possible doubling of our population by the year 2000, we question the advisability of withdrawing more land each year from production and from sound conservation practices that would enhance our abilities to cope with the serious food and fiber problems that are upon us.

Very truly yours,



Oliver Lee, Jr.
Chairman Catron County Commissioners



EXHIBIT

COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
A. V. (GABBY) HAYES
FIRST DISTRICT
L. E. MORRISON
SECOND DISTRICT
FRED L. McCAULEY
THIRD DISTRICT
ADDIE ATHEY
CLERK OF THE BOARD

ADDIE ATHEY
COUNTY CLERK

ADOLFO GIRON
PROBATE JUDGE

KENNETH MYERS
PURCHASING AGENT

OFFICE OF THE GRANT COUNTY CLERK
SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO

December 12, 1972

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

The Board of County Commissioners of Grant County, New Mexico opposes the reclassification of additional Forest Service lands into the Gila Wilderness area.

The present Gila Wilderness is more than adequate to meet the recreational needs of the approximate one percent of the population possessing the means and physical stamina to adequately explore and enjoy the area.

In contrast, the area available to multiple land usage and for true recreational purposes are being removed piecemeal from the public domain. Since the vast majority of the American public is utilizing recreational motor vehicles for family vacations and leisure time pursuits, the additional withdrawals may be construed as discriminatory against a majority desiring to enjoy the natural beauty of our local National Forest lands.

The economy of Grant County is dependent primarily upon agriculture (grazing), recreation, and the mineral extractive industry. Withdrawals of lands from multiple-use will directly affect these three major economic basics upon which Grant County is dependent.

We are concerned about the potential for mineral discovery being lost to not only Grant County but the nation. This is particularly significant in view of the fact that the largest copper producing area in New Mexico is adjacent to the area being removed from multiple-usage.

EXHIBIT

Regional Forester

- 2 -

December 12, 1972

Grant County is pleased to share the present Gila Wilderness with its neighboring county. However, we object to placing additional areas within the wilderness classification.

Yours very truly,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

By: _____

L. E. Morrison
L. E. Morrison, Chairman

A. L. Hays

Member

Fred J. McCord

Member

cc: Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest

EXHIBIT

VILLAGE OF BAYARD

Drawer T

BAYARD, NEW MEXICO 88023

January 4, 1973

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Bayard met Tuesday night and discussed the proposed additions to the Gila National Forest. They wish to go on record as opposing this proposal.

If I can be of any further service, please let me know.

Yours truly,



(Manuel Herrera
Mayor

rg

EXHIBIT

ALAN A. KOFF
MAYOR

C. N. MORRIS
CITY ATTORNEY

H. R. OVERHOLT
ADMINISTRATOR

E. M. FISHER, JR.
CLERK-TREASURER

J. M. PARSONS
SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF LORDSBURG

206 SO. MAIN

PHONE 542-3421

LORDSBURG, NEW MEXICO 88045

COUNCILMEN:

RICHARD W. ALLEN, PRO-TEM

EDWARD A. DIAZ

MRS. PETRA D. ESTRADA

JOHN H. FRIE

EUGENE P. NOCE

FRANK ORONA, JR.

ARTURO RUIZ

DAVID D. WARREN

FOR LIVING

FINE CLIMATE

FOR BUSINESS

November 30, 1972

Regional Forester,
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dear Sir:

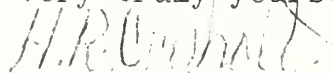
It is my understanding that a proposal is being recommended to expand the Gila Wilderness and the National Wilderness Preservation System by adding a number of acres of National Forest land contiguous to the present Wilderness area.

As a representative of the administration of the City of Lordsburg, my opinion is that a large number of people who are residents of the City are opposed to this proposal. They feel that incorporating more acres into a wilderness area results in more land being made practically inaccessible for the use of the public. The feeling is that public land as readily available as these acres of National Forest land should be preserved for general use.

It is my personal opinion that problems that develop from the habits of litterers and despoilers are not solved by restricting travel areas. The majority are often punished for the misdeeds of a few. A feeling of proprietorship can be developed in groups of people that discourage environmental abuse, with the help of carefully controlled access.

I hope that the proposal is not adopted.

Very truly yours,



H. R. Overholt
City Administrator

c. c. Mayor Alan A. Koff
Richard T. Moolick

EXHIBIT

SILVER CITY ● GRANT COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

925 N. Hudson Street, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061
phone 538-3785

January 10, 1973

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

The Silver City-Grant County Chamber of Commerce endorses the U.S. Forest Service proposal of adding primitive area lands and other U.S. Forest lands to straighten and improve the boundaries on the south, southwest, west, and north sides of the Gila Wilderness as proposed by them on December 15, 1972, in the Fine Arts Auditorium of Western New Mexico University, Silver City, New Mexico.

The Silver City-Grant County Chamber of Commerce objects to the inclusion of approximately 44,000 acres on the east and southeast as proposed by the U.S. Forest Service. The Chamber does agree with the Forest Service proposal of exclusion of areas #5, #6, #7, #3-3, and the proposed Forest Service line on the west side of the corridor leading to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

The Chamber recommends that all Primitive Lands lying east and south of the old Gila Wilderness boundary beginning below Area #3 of the Proposed Gila Wilderness, Gila National Forest Map, dated April, 1972, be returned to U.S. Forest Service control.

The east boundary of the Gila Wilderness as proposed by the Chamber would begin from the northeast corner as proposed by the U.S. Forest Service including area #A, #2, #2-2, #B, #3, and the north portion of #C. Just south of area #3 the Chamber proposal would follow the old Gila Wilderness boundary one mile west, one mile south, one mile west, three miles south, two and a half miles west where it would join area #3-3.

The reason for the opposition of the Silver City-Grant County Chamber of Commerce is that we now have the Gila Wilderness Area covering some four hundred thirty-four thousand acres which are withdrawn from use for other than the young aggressive individuals to whom a wilderness appeals. Older persons are not able to enjoy the rigors of backpacking, but do enjoy driving to places of beauty in our national forests. These older persons should not be "locked out" but should be allowed to see their forest in its entirety.

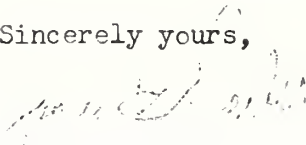
EXHIBIT

Regional Forester, 2, 1/10/73

As a Chamber of Commerce we are interested in the advancement of commerce to include tourism in our area and a wilderness does not attract much tourism. We have sufficient wilderness for now and the future.

Our needs are for recreation in our forests in which all persons can participate, not only the rugged youth but also our elderly population. We believe that except for straightening the boundaries as mentioned in the first paragraph of this letter, all Gila Primitive areas should revert to U.S. Forest Service control and revert to multiple use concept.

Sincerely yours,



James E. Peeler
President

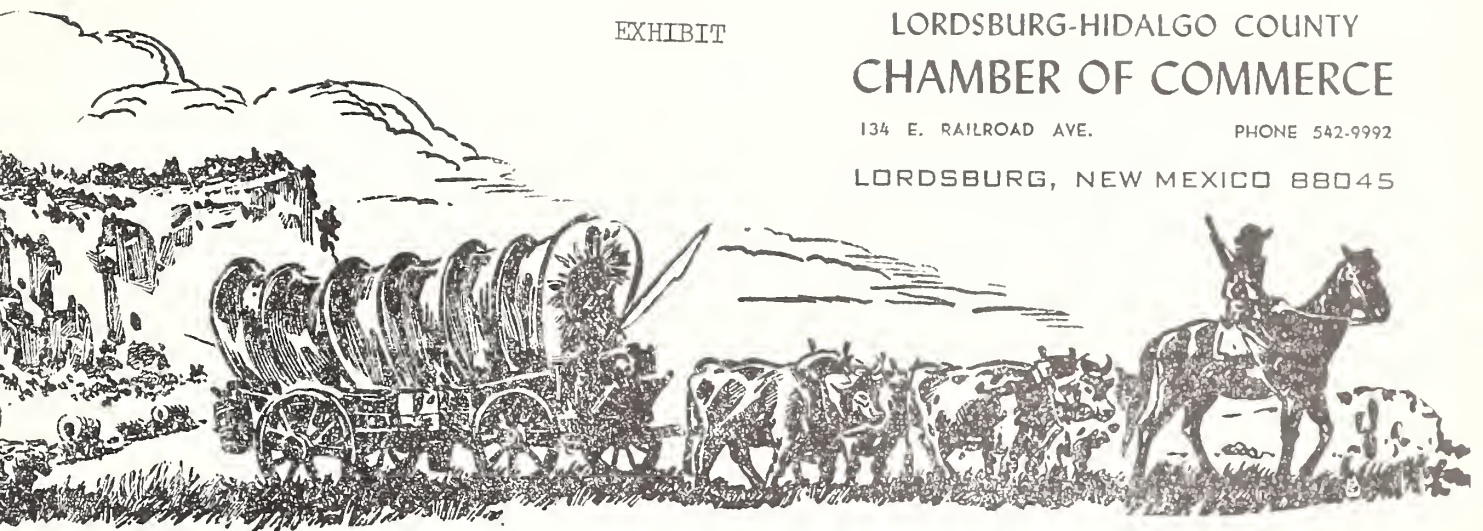
EXHIBIT

LORDSBURG-HIDALGO COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

134 E. RAILROAD AVE.

PHONE 542-9992

LORDSBURG, NEW MEXICO 88045



December 11, 1972

Richard C. Johnson
Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
301 W. College Ave.
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The withdrawal of additional land from the multiple use concept to be added to the wilderness program is unnecessary and dangerous to the economic future of our nation. This action endangers the growth of the mining, lumber and cattle industries. The economy of the City of Lordsburg and the County of Hidalgo are largely dependent on mining and cattle industries. Consequently, the proposed action to withdraw public lands in this area is detrimental to the economic future of our city and county. Therefore, let it be resolved by this Chamber of Commerce that we are unconditionally opposed to the withdrawal of additional lands from multiple use to be added to the Gila Wilderness Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Herbert V. Saucedo, Jr.".

Lordsburg-Hidalgo County
Chamber of Commerce
Herbert V. Saucedo, Jr., President

ROBERT LEE COSHLAND

ROUTE 8, BOX 550-B

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85710

January 12, 1973.

Regional Forester,
U. S. Forest Service,
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.,
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101.

Subject: Proposed Gila Wilderness

Dear Sir:

As Arizona Representative of the National Parks and Conservation Association, headquartered in Washington, D. C., I have been asked to submit this statement on behalf of that organization. Founded more than half a century ago, this is an independent, private, non-profit institution, educational and scientific in character, with over 50,000 members throughout the United States and abroad, each of whom receives the monthly publication "National Parks and Conservation Magazine - the Environmental Journal".

I have thoroughly studied the proposal for subject Wilderness in the Gila National Forest, as well as the environmental statement. The comments which follow are based on those documents.

In general, we endorse the establishment of boundaries which follow readily identifiable topographic features, as opposed to artificial lines which are related to sectional or sub-sectional boundaries. We therefore are in accord with minor additions and deletions from existing Wilderness and Primitive areas in order to conform the boundaries to that principal.

We are particularly distressed to find that the Forest Service has deleted enormous acreage from the existing Primitive area, on the grounds that it does not qualify for Wilderness classification. When Primitive areas are established as such in the first place, it is with the specific understanding that the land is at that time de facto primitive in nature and that the custodians of that land are committed to keeping it that way. According to the encroachments which have occurred since the Primitive designation was assigned, as enumerated in your Proposal, it would appear that the Forest Service has been a very poor custodian indeed.

We refer especially to areas 5 and 6 on your map. It would appear that these areas at one time would have qualified as Wilderness on the basis of "purity". We strongly urge that:

1. These areas be added to the proposed Wilderness.
2. Immediate steps be undertaken to roll back the clock, to eliminate as many of the unnecessary man-made developments as possible, including voiding of invalid or infeasible mining claims.
3. Recognition be given to the provisions of the Wilderness Act which permit grazing in Wilderness areas, along with such minimum man-made developments as are necessary for the conduct of the permitted grazing.
4. All timberlands, in all segments of both existing Wilderness and Primitive areas, including those which are termed operable, be retained in their present condition and included in the Wilderness.
5. Areas with undeveloped mining claims be included. Those laws may soon be changed.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lee Coshland



EXHIBIT

RECREATION PLANDS

NEW MEXICO CONSERVATION COORDINATING COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 142

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

January 16, 1973

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

The New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council, at its meeting held January 16, 1973, has adopted the enclosed position on the proposals for a Gila Wilderness.

Please consider the Council's comments in preparing the Forest Service's proposal for submission to the Congress.

Sincerely,

Larry Candell
President

cc:
Senator Joseph Montoya, U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
Senator Pete Domenici, U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
Representative Harold Runnels, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515
Representative Manuel Lujan, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Albuquerque Urban Progress ♦ Alpha Nu Chapter, Phi Sigma Society ♦ American Association of University Women, New Mexico Division ♦ Isaac Walton League ♦ Junior League of Albuquerque, Inc. ♦ League of Women Voters of New Mexico ♦ New Mexico Environmental Health Association ♦ New Mexico Horse Council ♦ New Mexico Mountain Club ♦ New Mexico Ornithological Society ♦ New Mexico Outdoor Writers Association ♦ National Speleological Society, Southwest Region ♦ Old Santa Fe Association, Inc. ♦ Professional Guides and Outfitters Association of New Mexico ♦ Rio Grande Chapter, Soil Conservation Society of America ♦ Society of American Foresters, New Mexico Chapter ♦ Society of Range Management, New Mexico Section ♦ Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society ♦ UNM Mountaineering Club ♦ Wildlife Society, New Mexico Chapter ♦ Zero Population Growth, Albuquerque Chapter.

EXHIBIT

NEW MEXICO CONSERVATION COORDINATING COUNCIL POSITION ON TWO PROPOSALS FOR A GILA WILDERNESS

The NMCCC has chosen to comment on the merits of the two proposals for a Gila Wilderness formulated by the Forest Service and by the Joint Conservationists, relying principally on what we believe to be an appropriate interpretation of the Wilderness Act. Where feasible, we have examined certain aspects of the Forest Service's proposal, and we will comment on these.

As an organization we have not been able to fully satisfy our need for a thorough knowledge of all of the various parcels which have been recommended either for addition or exclusion to the present Gila Wilderness. Therefore, we are unwilling to give a blanket endorsement or rejection to either proposal. We feel that both proposals have been researched very well. Topographic data, wildlife inventories, mineral and geologic resource data, floral studies with an emphasis on major tree species of logging potential, and evidence of man's activities have been included as a proper base in each proposal. We ascribe the differences in the two proposals to each organization's different approach to wilderness. It is here that we more closely agree with the Joint Conservationist's proposal. There is a tendency for the Forest Service to search for, and find, those signs of man's activities which would justify the exclusion of certain very large parcels in the present wilderness or primitive area from their wilderness proposal. We feel that this approach is one of "wilderness purism". Here, evidence of man's activities serve to disqualify otherwise acceptable and very attractive wilderness lands from wilderness classification. This does not adequately represent the general public's feeling with respect to wilderness, nor is it contained within the statutory requirements for wilderness, for these excluded areas do generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; moreover they provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Generally, we feel that these areas can and will be cherished by this and future generations as wilderness lands and not be regarded simply as unoccupied, undeveloped or unmanaged isolated waste-lands.

Within the Forest Service's Gila Wilderness Proposal the rejection of the less than truly spectacular lands from the wilderness classification is unwise, for the rather continuous, and in some cases, large, designation of peripheral parcels for declassification will expose the wilderness core to unnecessary impact. These lands have

EXHIBIT

not only wilderness values, but also they serve as buffers to lessen the impact of mechanized man on the wilderness core. The value of retaining a larger part of the buffer zones will include the improved ability to control wildfires and illegal trespass from outside the wilderness. By their exclusion and the consequent reduction in wilderness perimeter the availability of access points will be restricted for recreationists. Limited access availability has proved to be a problem in other wilderness areas.

We feel that the Forest Service has placed undue emphasis upon the negative aspects of illegal trespass, remnants of past land use, geologic erosion, recent and removeable man made intrusions, and hard-to-delineate boundaries without giving consideration to what can be done under the Wilderness Act and the USDA regulations to correct these negative wilderness land management acts.

We believe that specific comment is in order for a least five items in the Forest Service's proposal. Exclusion 14 proposes to remove 3,570 acres of Primitive Area because of two roads and an airstrip which were abandoned some ten years ago. We suggest that these are insufficient to warrant this large exclusion. Section 251.71 of USDA Wilderness Regulations provides "where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land." In this grassland type land, restoration should be the attractive alternative.

Exclusion 16 proposed to remove 1,137 acres of Primitive Area because it is susceptible to illegal motorized trespass, and because the boundary is difficult to delineate in the field. The proposal recognizes that area 16 contains 1.3 MBF of operable timber and that much of the land is suitable for wilderness. We suggest that if the land is in fact suitable for wilderness, that it should be so designated. The difficulties of managing trespass and/or boundary delineation are not so overriding as to give up this unit of wilderness.

We feel that addition A has a defensible and logical extension toward the north. Bell Canyon would be a strong natural boundary and warrants consideration. We suggest that the Joint Conservationists addition LL be given more consideration.

Exclusion 5 proposes to remove 20,219 acres of Primitive Area because of man made improvements, roads, 1600 acres of brush clearing, and vehicular trespass along the North Star Road corridor. We feel that the proposal should be redrawn to exclude the 1600 acres of brush clearing and some of the major trespass problem areas along the East side without excluding the entire 20,219 acres. Arguments presented by the Joint Conservationists' proposal substantiate our feeling that there is much worthwhile land of wilderness quality within this proposed exclusion.

EXHIBIT

Exclusion 6 proposes to remove 36,137 acres of Primitive Area because of man made improvements, roads, a logged area, and erosive areas which deliver sediments to Lake Roberts. Again, we feel that the proposal should be redrawn so as not to lose so large an area of suitable wilderness. The impact of roads and improvements are very localized within the context of 36,000 acres. The construction of debris basins and gully plugs to trap sediments can be accomplished in the lower reaches of the contributing arroyos without disturbance of large areas. It appears that the Wilderness Act under Special Provisions - Water Resources (4) and also under Section 251.84 (d) of the USDA Wilderness Regulations allows for the construction of silt traps (in the public interest - i.e.- Lake Roberts) within wilderness areas. The possibility of redrawing the boundary to provide an area for erosion control structures, as proposed in the Joint Conservationists' study should also receive consideration.

We strongly urge that the Forest Service's proposal be reconsidered before it is submitted to the Congress, and that the Forest Service deliberate as to the validity of its restrictive attitude towards what is truly wilderness. We believe that such a review will best serve the citizens of the United States.

EXHIBIT

Elmer Schooley
Box 5
Montezuma, New Mexico 87731
January 12, 1973

Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

The members of my organization wish to support the conservationist proposal for a Gila Wilderness of 614,918 acres to include all of the present Gila Wilderness, all of the present Gila Primitive Area, and 45,250 acres of national forest contiguous to one or the other of those areas.

Wilderness is a civilized need; perhaps the most civilized need. When man abandoned food gathering and became a food grower, wilderness became a concept, and an enemy. Conrad Richter's book "The Trees", the first of a trilogy, illuminates the pioneer attitude toward wilderness. His family of pioneers moving into the great Western Reserve, which we call "Ohio", broke out of the forest at an overlook and "for a moment Sayward reckoned that her father had fetched them unbeknownst to the Western ocean and what lay beneath was the late sun glittering on the green-black water. Then she saw that what they looked down on was a dark, illimitable expanse of wilderness. It was a sea of solid tree-tops broken only by some gash where deep beneath the foliage an unknown stream made its way. As far as the eye could reach, this lonely forest sea rolled on and on till its faint blue billows broke against an incredibly distant horizon.....It was a picture Sayward was to carry to her grave, although she didn't know it then. In later years when it was all to go so that her own father wouldn't know the place if he rose from his bury hole, she was to call the scene to mind. 'This is the way it was', she would say to herself. 'Nowhere else but in the American Wilderness could it have been'".

The group of novels goes on to describe the growth of civilization and the destruction of the wilderness with the tree the symbol of the wilderness and man's primary enemy. At the end of the last

CONTINUED

book "The Town", Sayward, an old woman now and living in a town, goes to the woods and brings in a sapling to plant. Wilderness is not valued till man is civilized. Then when it is gone he recognizes its irreplaceable value.

Pioneers hated the wilderness. Now we are beginning to recognize its positive values and look back ruefully to those "vast, illimitable" forests which we now know to be quite limitable and to those empty prairies. For only 2% of our nation remains as a wilderness, and that 2% is likely to disappear soon.

If the human race continues its mental development as the population rapidly expands; if our conception of significances continues to grow, what will be the future need for wilderness?

Our children may need much more wilderness than we do and they may need it much more intensely. For with increasing civilization, one can predict an increasing need for, and reverence of, wilderness values. For here is mankind's greatest spiritual reservoir; not in the churches, the art museums, the concert halls, or the theatres, but in the wilderness.

For man has a need for wilderness, and the fact that many men do not realize this, does not make it less true. It is frequently charged that wilderness is a violation of the concept of democracy because only an elite; those young enough, strong enough, and with enough time, can enjoy it. This rules out most Americans. But wilderness stands as a spiritual resource for us all whether we enter it or not. Man was created in a wilderness, he evolved in a wilderness, he was a part of the wilderness and the further he is removed from the wilderness the less possibility he has for understanding that he too is a part of nature and not separate from it; that his fate is harnessed to that of the wilderness and that as it diminishes he diminishes with it.

The fact that one does not see the wilderness does not remove its significance. I do not see the air I breathe but it is there and necessary for my existence. America has spent millions of dollars to put a few men on the moon. I have not been on the moon. My children have not been on the moon. My 82 year old father has not been on the moon. Yet those few Americans who have stood on the moon have broadened spiritual frontiers for us all. Wilderness can stand for us in the same way. We should protect that fragment of our land remaining in wild state from the encroachments of civilization so that our successors may know what the world was before mankind ruined it through misuse,

CONTINUED

EXHIBIT

mismanagement, and selfishness. And the wild country should be there even if no one uses it; if no one even sees it. We need it for a spiritual reservoir and for evidence that we finally stopped; that once in a billion times we could say no, that finally we had the moral courage to leave an area unchanged, to respect the dignity of land developed in a natural fashion without the interference of man. In a wasted land these small wilderness areas are a haven for the human spirit; a living reminder of what might have been.

But once wilderness is gone we can't get it back. Money can't buy it for us and Congress can't appropriate it for us. We can't create it. It just has to be there. Once gone, it's gone for all mankind, forever.

Constantly we are exhorted to be reasonable; to be practical. I say it is time to be unreasonable and impractical.

Our wild-life is decimated, our productive land is being despoiled, our prairies destroyed, our forest devastated. Our rivers have become open sewers, our air an ethereal cesspool; all in the name of Reason and Practicality.

It is time the burden is put on the development-minded people. Let them show "reason." Impractical unreason is better than practical reason in this nation bent on self-destruction. So let's be impractical and unreasonable and make the largest possible wilderness.

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club feels, therefore, that all lands capable of wilderness classification should be so classified; at once, every acre, every square foot, every inch. Boundaries should be extended to the extent of the holdings. Administrative areas should be held to a minimum. All biotic types should be included from the highest mountains to the ocean and everything in between. Some of this wilderness may present administrative problems; as for example the "defense" of the area. But let's designate the area as wilderness and then worry about its defense. Because this is our last chance. There's no next time around the track for us. This is not a game. This is life and death for that all too perishable concept; wilderness.

The members of my organization join me in thanking you for this opportunity to present our views.

Sincerely,


Elmer Schooley
Conservation Chairman
Gallinas Group

ES:fm

MUCC

MICHIGAN UNITED CONSERVATION CLUBS

2101 Wood Street

Mail Address: P.O. Box 2235, Lansing, Michigan 48911

Phone (517) 371-1041

PRESIDENT

Louis B. Michalski, 19604 Justine, Detroit, Michigan 48234

VICE PRESIDENTS

Roger Wenk, Byron, Michigan 48418
 Danne Robbins, 13200 Trist Rd., Grass Lake, Michigan 49240
 Ryan Bontekoe, Marion, Michigan 49665

TREASURER

Hale Pearce, 71 Edison Court, Coldwater, Michigan 49036



REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Gerald Goodman, Route No. 1, Box 32, Iron River, Michigan 49935
 Earl McNett, Box 201, Gaylord, Michigan 49735
 C. S. McCormack, Route No. 3, Box 87, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112
 Glenn Corbett, 20381 Hollywood, Harper Woods, Michigan 48236

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paul J. Leach, Box 2235, Lansing, Michigan 48911

December 22, 1972

Regional Forester
 U.S. Forest Service
 517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

Re: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs, a 130,000-member statewide citizens' organization, has been notified of a hearing which was held on December 16, 1972, to consider the inclusion of the Gila Wilderness into the national wilderness system. We understand that statements for the record are acceptable if submitted by January 16, 1973.

We have studied the reports of the Wilderness Society and other organizations and wish to comment on the following aspects of their recommendations for this area:

1. The Forest Service proposal for a 515,288-acre Gila Wilderness appears inadequate. It excludes from wilderness protection major acreages of national forest land containing outstanding wilderness values. We would support a Gila Wilderness of 614,918 acres to include:

- (a) All of the present Gila Wilderness
- (b) All of the present Gila Primitive Area
- (c) 45,250 acres of national forest land contiguous to either the existing wilderness or the primitive area.

2. Find suitable alternatives for the Hooker Dam, so that irreplaceable wilderness values of national public interest will not be destroyed.

Please accept our thanks for the opportunity to present a statement to this effect. We shall appreciate its incorporation into the record of the December 16 hearing.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Leach
 Paul J. Leach
 Executive Director

PJL:mh

"STATEWIDE"

"To Further and Advance Conservation in All of Its Phases"

EXHIBIT

Sandia Mountain Wildlife and Conservation Association

Dedicated to the Conservation of Soil, Forests, Water, Wildlife
and all other natural resources

* * * * *
Organized - 1971

January 13, 1972

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Bill,

The Sandia Mountain Wildlife and Conservation Association wishes to thank the USFS for this opportunity to present our written views on the proposed Gila Wilderness boundaries and we will appreciate our written statement being made a part of the hearing record. Our organization was represented at the December 16, 1972 public hearing at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, N.M. although we made no formal statement at that time.

The SMWCA believes all lands having wilderness quality should be preserved for use by future generations. Our organization does not believe that "wilderness quality" necessarily should be defined as having absolutely NO signs of man's past activities. In fact, doesn't the Wilderness Act make such concessions? It seems reasonable to us that an area where the natural beauty is high that logging and/or mining activities of years gone by should not exclude that area from wilderness status.

Our organization agrees with the USFS on all of their recommended additions to the Gila Wilderness. The recommendations of the USFS of adding or excluding small areas in an attempt to locate the boundary as an easily identified topographical feature is certainly a reasonable and desirable plan. The SMWCA is in agreement with the following numerically listed tracts for exclusion: 1,2,3, 4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15 and 16;1.1,2.2,3.3,4.4,5.5,6.6,7.7,8.8,9.9,10.10,11.11, 12.12,13.13 and 14.14.

The USFS excluded areas 5 and 6 should be re-evaluated as this area does contain large areas of wilderness quality land. The recreational potential of area 5 as a wilderness far exceeds the economic gain which would be realized from the sale of the small amount of marketable timber. Certainly the fence and road on the Eastern boundary of area 5 would serve as an easily defined boundary. The remaining signs of logging and other human usage terminated years ago should not disqualify this area from wilderness qualification. The reasons given by the USFS for exclusion of area 6 certainly should not disqualify the whole area as a wilderness area. Some modification to the Southern boundary should be considered only in the areas requiring erosion control.

P. O. Box 162, Cedar Crest, N. M. 87008
Affiliated with New Mexico W.C.A.

EXHIBIT

The Sandia Mountain Wildlife and Conservation Association is in favor of the USFS completing the proposed Hamilton land trade. The trade would certainly go a long way towards maintaining the integrity and continuity of the wilderness concept.

Our organization opposes the construction of the Hooker dam. Although the proposed dam would create an economic boost for the area it would also set a precedent by impounding water which would back up inside the wilderness boundary. It is this impounding of water inside the wilderness boundary that concerns us since it would be used as an argument in favor of other violations of the wilderness concept.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions on this important matter. Our organization will follow with interest the development of the new boundaries of the Gila Wilderness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald Q. Wilson", written in a cursive style.

Gerald Q. Wilson, Vice-president of the Sandia Mountain WCA.



EXHIBIT

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

POST OFFICE BOX 30002 — ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110

January 15, 1973

Regional Forester
517 Gold SW
Albuquerque, N. M.
87101

Dear Sir:

The following comments are offered as an elaboration of the statement presented for our group by Charles Hyder dated December 15, 1972. In that letter Mr. Hyder, our conservation chairman, indicated our support for the "Joint Conservationists' Gila Wilderness Proposal." Over the years, portions of the original Gila Wilderness have been continually chipped away. The present Forest Service proposal, which would declassify a considerable portion of the Gila Primitive Area, represents a substantial additional mutilation of the original wilderness. The Joint Conservationists' proposal, on the other hand, moves toward restoration of the size of the wilderness area.

We feel, particularly, that the areas of the Primitive Area which contain part of the inholdings of John Hamilton which the Forest Service is attempting to obtain should be included in an expanded Gila Wilderness. The Central New Mexico Audubon Society, like many New Mexico groups concerned about the environment, has supported the efforts of the Forest Service to obtain Hamilton's inholdings. We have supported those efforts, for the most part, because of the wilderness value of these holdings. We urge, especially, that the Forest Service's Primitive Area Exclusion 16, which contains the Sam Martin tract, be included in the Gila Wilderness. The arguments which the Forest Service has offered to justify this exclusion, as with many of the other exclusions, are weak. The argument that identifiable boundaries are missing is somewhat like proposing to shoot the remaining Bald Eagles because they cannot be protected.

Please include this letter in the record of hearings on the Gila Wilderness proposal. Your consideration of our comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

C. A. Hundertmark
President

EXHIBIT

December 29, 1972



Representing 250,000 Four Wheel Drive Owners

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

SUBJECT: Gila Wilderness Proposal

Dear Sir:

The National 4 Wheel Drive Association wishes to go on record in opposition to your proposal to add portions of the Gila Primitive Area to the National Wilderness Preservation System. According to the proposal you would recommend that 70,374 National Forest acres of the Gila Primitive Area and 16,493 acres of National Forest land be added to the Gila Wilderness and to the National Preservation System. The proposed Gila Wilderness of the National Wilderness Preservation System would contain 514,678 acres of National Forest land and 610 acres of privately owned land.

Research has shown us that these are not roadless areas that indeed there were existing roads both down the Gila River and up the east fork of the Gila River. These roads and the river bottoms have been used by recreationists for some years although the primitive area classification did close this recreational area to the public several years ago. Closure of lands do not serve in the best public interest. The Forest Service is well aware that less than 1% of the nation's public utilizes wilderness areas. This does not necessarily indicate that the other 99% were cut off from previous use. It does, however, show that the majority of the public follow other means of recreation than that of backpacking or horseback riding.

The National 4 Wheel Drive Association does not recommend that we open areas to new trails and to new roadways. We do recommend that further surveys be made for the preservation of existing roads, trails and current use areas. For many years vehicular use has been enjoyed on existing roads and trails that are currently being proposed for closure. The Gila River roads and the river bottom are examples of this action. Vehicular use and vehicular travel and camping in these areas do not harm the area but instead provide a method for the vast American public to use and view the vast scenic grandeur of America

EXHIBIT

that they, the American public, own. It would seem appropriate at this time that the Forest Service rather than finding ways to close the lands to the public indeed follow a different tactic and join with actual user groups to find ways of administering the National Forest lands in such a way that they can be kept open to the American people and still not undergo destruction. We are faced with an ever increasing demand on public recreation and the preservation of existing roads, trails, dry washes and river bottoms for public use would be in the best public interest.

It has been shown time and time again that members of the National 4 Wheel Drive Association and organized 4 wheel drive user groups do far less damage to the land and leave less litter than other user groups such as the average hiker, horseback rider, etc. I am certain that you will find that members of the National 4 Wheel Drive Association in New Mexico and indeed throughout the entire region would be glad to join with you and assist you in any surveys of any use of existing areas in order that your proposals can include the existing roads, trails, dry washes and river bottoms as being left open for public use.

We sincerely hope that serious consideration can be given to our recommendations and if we can be of any assistance in these surveys or in the maintenance of public forest areas please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely yours,



Dick Houser
Vice President
National 4 Wheel Drive Association

3310 E. Shangri La Rd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85028



EXHIBIT

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF EL PASO

P. O. DRAWER 1977

EL PASO, TEXAS 79950

December 11, 1972

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DUFFY STANLEY
Vice-chairman

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Water Quality

LARRY SCHWARTZ
Auto Pollution

NAT JONES
Food Alternatives

LEON METZ
Historical Sites

ANDY COHEN
Beautification

Mr. William D. Hurst, Regional Forester, United
States Forest Service
517 Gold, Southwest
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87101

Re: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Hurst:

We support the proposal by the conservation organizations for a Wilderness of 614,918 acres.

We are convinced that the wisdom of an inclusion of the additional 99,630 acres would become increasingly apparent in the years to come; that the proposal to include only the 515,288 is short-sighted.

There have been enough mistakes made in connection with the Gila Wilderness since its' inception in 1924 without now adding to them by failing to include almost 100,000 acres of land which satisfy the wilderness requirements set out in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Please make this letter a part of the record.

Sincerely,


Malcolm Harris

R.C. Johnson, Forest Supervisor,
Gila National Forest
301 West College
Silver City, New Mexico, 88061

EXHIBIT

WYOMING-UTAH-NEVADA

**THE WUN CHAPTER OF
OUTDOORS UNLIMITED, INC.**

1067 Henderson Drive
Ogden, Utah 84404

December 6, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
Forest Service, U.S.D.A.
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Bill:

The Wyoming-Utah-Nevada Chapter of Outdoors Unlimited passed the following resolution at the last Board of Directors' meeting:


The Chapter supports the proposed exclusions from the existing Gila Wilderness Area and the adjacent Gila Primitive Area and recommends as follows:

1. That the Primitive Areas which are proposed for inclusion in the Wilderness Area be excluded and managed on a multiple basis;
2. That the area of National Forest lands proposed for inclusion in the Wilderness Area be deleted from the proposal and these lands managed on a multiple use basis;
3. That any potential mineralized areas in the southwest border of the proposed Wilderness Area as identified by the U. S. Geological Survey (and Bureau of Mines) be excluded from the Wilderness Area; and
4. That the Wilderness Area boundaries be identified by prominent topographic features with the understanding the boundaries be adjusted inward from the present Wilderness boundary line rather than outward in many cases as presently proposed so that important potential mineralized land along the southwest perimeter be excluded.

This resolution is respectfully submitted for inclusion in the hearing record.

Very sincerely yours,

WYOMING-UTAH-NEVADA CHAPTER
OUTDOORS UNLIMITED, INC.

By 

Joel L. Frykman, President

EXHIBIT



Southwestern Section

Larry A. Soehlig
Gobernador Route
Blanco, New Mexico 87412

January 5, 1973

Mr. W. D. Hurst, Regional Forester
517 Gold Ave. S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

After several lengthy discussions the Southwestern Section of the Society of American Foresters has developed a policy statement on wilderness, copy enclosed.

We feel that wilderness is an important part of the American heritage and therefore support the establishment and management of qualified areas as such.

In line with our general policy statement, I want to say that we as a professional Society support the Gila Wilderness proposal as outlined in your brochure and draft Environmental Statement.

You are to be congratulated on realigning the boundaries of both areas so as to establish a boundary which is identifiable and manageable, while at the same time protecting the wilderness character of the entire area.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow us to present our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

LARRY A. SOEHLIG
Chairman, Southwestern Section
Society of American Foresters

EXHIBIT

POLICY ON WILDERNESS FOR SOUTHWESTERN SECTION, SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

The Southwestern Section of the Society of American Foresters recognize that wilderness is an important element of the American heritage. It therefore supports the establishment and management of wilderness areas on the Nation's public lands under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. It is pertinent to point out, however, that the objective of the Act "to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness" can be attained only if in establishing such areas the definitions, criteria, and restraints expressed in the Act are scrupulously adhered to. Similarly the administration and management of areas so established must be done in strict conformance with the management constraints provided in the law. It is the position of the Society that if the standards for wilderness classification or the standards for wilderness management are diluted or compromised to the end that non-qualifying areas are admitted or non-conforming practices or activities are condoned in wilderness administration the wilderness concept will be cheapened, and the ultimate deterioration of the National Wilderness Preservation System will be inevitable.

SRM

EXHIBIT

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

NEW MEXICO SECTION

January 9, 1973

Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

After reviewing the Draft Environmental Statement and Proposal submitted by the USDA Forest Service concerning the changes of boundary in the Gila Wilderness Area, the New Mexico Section of the Society for Range Management finds the proposed changes reasonable and desirable. We feel that the establishment of the proposed boundaries along definite and easily recognized topographic features will facilitate administration of the area and result in better public relations by diminishing the probability of unwitting violations of regulations governing the wilderness area.

Declassification of the more developed and accessible portions of the primitive area will permit development of recreation facilities, erosion and watershed protection measures, and range improvements where needed on these lands for more intensive management and protection of natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed action.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Williamson
President
New Mexico Section
Society for Range Management





December 30, 1972

Regional Forester
 Forest Service, USDA
 517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

The American Mining Congress, a national trade association composed of U. S. companies that produce most of the nation's metals, coal and industrial and agricultural minerals, wishes to comment on the proposed addition of the Gila Primitive Area, and contiguous lands, to the National Wilderness Preservation System. We request that this statement be made part of the hearing record.

The mineral survey of the proposed wilderness conducted by the U. S. Geological Survey and U. S. Bureau of Mines disclosed that parts of the area bear a significant mineral potential. Also, the report stated that the entire area studied had significant potential for "blind" ore deposits.

Several geologists employed by mining companies operating in New Mexico testified at the field hearing that the proposed Gila Wilderness has significant mineral potential and that the area is an excellent target for future mineral exploration. Proper assessment of the potential for deeply buried ore deposits in the proposed wilderness will require much more detailed geologic study than has been undertaken to date.

In view of the report on the mineral survey conducted by the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines, and in view of testimony presented by competent geologists that there is a strong possibility that deeply buried commercial grade ore bodies might exist within the boundaries of the proposed wilderness, the American Mining Congress recommends that the area not be

Continued...

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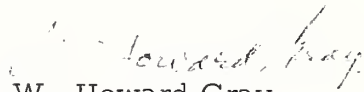
EXHIBIT

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
December 30, 1972
Page 2

included in the National Wilderness Preservation System at this time. It would not be in the best national interest to consider this area for wilderness status until such time as sufficient subsurface geologic exploration is undertaken that would either prove or disprove the existence of mineral deposits.

Thank you for the consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Howard Gray".

W. Howard Gray
Chairman
AMC Public Lands Committee

EXHIBIT

RESOLUTION ON GILA WILDERNESS

Where as:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has proposed certain additions to the Gila Wilderness Area and certain exclusions in both the Gila Wilderness and Primitive Areas.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

That the Gila Grazing Advisory Board opposes any addition to the Gila Wilderness Area.

We further resolve and recommend that the Gila Primitive Area be de-classified and returned to National Forest status and administered under the multiple use concept for the benefit of recreation, mining, grazing, hunting, fishing, timbering and watershed protection, and further uses as the need arises.

Marcel K. Biebelle

Marcel K. Biebelle(Chairman)
Worthington Shelley
David E. Giraud
O.E. Grubb
R.A. Canning
Floyd Todd
Kenneth Hollimon

EXHIBIT

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

P.O. BOX 1424

SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO 88061

PHONE: 538-5771



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SIDNEY WRIGHT

January 8, 1973

Richard C. Johnson, Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
301 W. College Avenue
Silver City, N.M. 88061

Dear Dick:

You will recall from attending meetings and note from the minutes of the Southwest New Mexico Resource Conservation and Development Council meetings at Reserve on October 26, 1972 and at Deming on December 14, 1972 we took official action to oppose adding portions of the Gila Primitive Area to the present Gila Wilderness.

The SWNM RC&D Project Sponsors include the following:

City of Lordsburg
Catron County Commissioners
State Forestry Department
Department of Development
Town of Silver City
Animas SWCD
Grants SWCD
Business Research UNM
Village of Reserve
Western New Mexico University
SWNM Council of Governments
Hidalgo County Commissioners
Town of Hurley
Deming Chambe of Commerce
Silver City Farm Bureau
Area Farm Bureau
Grant County Taxpayer's Association
N.M. State Engineer's Office
N.M. Cattle Growers Association
Environmental Improvement Agency

EXHIBIT

Village of Central
Village of Bayard
N.M. State Game and Fish Department
State Park and Recreation Commission
Luna County Commissioners
Office of the Governor
State Planning Office

You have individual and organizational statements from many of our Project Sponsors and units of Government presenting their individual recommendations in detail.

We are in agreement with the Forest Service recommendation that all of Sections 15 and 16, T14S and R16W be deleted at the Hooker Dam Site.

We further urge that in the legislative history, or in the act itself, establishing this enlarged Gila Wilderness language be inserted that would expressly provide for:

- (1) The elimination of that portion of the Gila Wilderness which would be inundated and influenced by the existing Hooker Reservoir legislation in accordance with the Central Arizona project legislation approved by the 90th Congress.

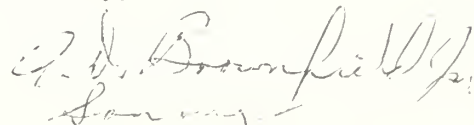
The President signed the bill authorizing the Central Arizona Project including the Hooker Dam and reservoir unit and provided the Presidential Declaration required of the Wilderness Act.

or

- (2) The backing up of water, from the proposed Hooker Dam, into, and inundating, a small portion of the Gila Wilderness (as provided for under Section 4(d)(4) of Public Law 85-577-The Wilderness Act) be accepted and established.

We request notification of the Washington hearing dates.

Sincerely,



A.D. Sonny Brownfield, Jr.
Chairman - RC&D Council



EXHIBIT

SOUTHWEST PINE ASSOCIATION

5130 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012 • TELEPHONE (602) 264-1506

December 16, 1972

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

I am James J. Cox, Jr., Secretary of Southwest Pine Association.


Southwest Pine Association is composed of lumber manufacturers in the states of Arizona and New Mexico. Its members are vitally interested in all stands of merchantable timber located in these two states.

First, we want the record to show that Southwest Pine Association approves the boundary modifications which the Forest Service proposes for the Gila Primitive and Gila Wilderness areas. In creating these modifications it is apparent that the Forest Service has attempted to locate boundaries in conjunction with identifiable natural formations, such as creeks and ridge lines and at the same time to give consideration, as far as possible, to the other uses to which the land may be dedicated, including timber harvest.

In so doing a small volume of timber may be added to the base to be harvested. This might appear as minor. It isn't. Even a small timber volume can have a substantial effect on the economy of surrounding communities. As planned, these economic benefits will help without unreasonably jeopardizing wilderness goals.

We support the Forest Service in its Gila Wilderness proposal and suggest that this approach be followed in classification of other areas.

Sincerely,



JAMES J. COX, JR.

JJC:mf



EXHIBIT

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

POST OFFICE BOX 30002 — ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110

December 15, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
United States Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst,

The Central New Mexico Chapter of the National Audubon Society subscribes fully to the Joint Conservationists' Proposal to increase the U. S. Forest Service's proposed expansion of the Gila Wilderness. We have studied the areas in question and read the basic arguments for and against the added expansion. We have concluded that most of the arguments against the added expansions can be corrected by removal of cattle tanks, fences, etc., and "allowing the land to revert to nature." The arguments involving erosion control practices to protect Lake Roberts (a manmade lake) would ultimately lead to control dams all over the watershed in order to compensate for the poor planning exhibited in locating the lake where it is. We do not subscribe to the past philosophies of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers. Dams beget dams beget dams ... We believe that the erosion should be allowed to proceed as it will. The only "management" that we would support in those areas would be to decrease or not permit grazing.

We appreciate this opportunity to make views known.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Hyder
Conservation Chairman

/mr

EXHIBIT
Frederic Leopold
111 Clay Street
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave, S.W.
Albuquerque, N.M.

Dec. 23, 1972

Gentlemen:

I wish to add my voice to the word of many other individuals and organizations who favor the establishment of the Rita Wildness and Primitive Area including contiguous wild lands comprising 614,918 acres..

- 1- All the present Rita Wildness
- 2- All the present Rita Primitive Area.
- 3- 45,250 acres of national forest land contiguous to the above areas.

Also I hope suitable alternatives to the Rooster Farm can be found.

Aldo Leopold was my elder brother and I hope sincerely leadership will be recognized and respected

Yours truly

Frederic Leopold

EXHIBIT

STATEMENT ON WILDERNESS WITHDRAWAL

December 15, 1972

My name is Mike Brady, and as an Explorer Post Advisor in Silver City, and former District Organization Committee Chairman for the Copper Council of the Boy Scouts in Central Arizona, I would like to state my opposition to this wilderness withdrawal for the following reasons:

1. A vast majority of people do not have the time or resources to utilize wilderness areas or enjoy them. Last year an estimated 30,000 people visited the Gila Wilderness. This is about 1% of the 2,700,000 population of the states of Arizona and New Mexico.

1/3 of the fathers of boys in my Post have only two days off every two weeks. They do not have time to enjoy the wilderness, but would like areas to take their families for picnics and weekend camps.

All but one District or Council Boy Scout Activities I've been involved with over the past 3 years have been held on private properties due to the lack of developed public camping and hiking areas.

2. The direct impact of the withdrawal of land in the area of the proposed Hooker Dam has caused a delay which already cost one life ~~this~~ year due to flooding. That one woman's life merits much more consideration than a few mountain sheep.

3. Only 3 of the 19 proposed withdrawal areas meet the requirements of wilderness land as defined by the Forest Service. The other 16 areas have mine workings, roads, dwellings, water wells, and other improvements which make them unsuitable for wilderness land.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope the Forest Service will consider the needs of the MAJORITY of people rather than a minority of less than 1% and develop usable camping and recreational land rather than acquiring large tracts which will benefit only those few people with the time and resources most of us do not have.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Brady". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Michael J. Brady

EXHIBIT

P. O. Box 784
Silver City, New Mexico 88061
December 12, 1972

Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
301 West College Avenue
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Dear Sir:

As a lifetime resident of the State of New Mexico, I am concerned with the proposed withdrawal of additional lands to wilderness status. This enlarges and places large areas at the disposal and use of a very small group of people. This proposed withdrawal precludes any use of this area under the concept of multiple use as has been the practice for all public lands.

Multiple use of lands under the Forest Service and BLM has always been the prime object of their administration. This gives to this nation the most efficient use of our federal lands. This use takes in all aspects of our general living and welfare. For without mining and agriculture, we would indeed be back in a primitive society unable to enjoy and have attained our present standards of living. The time available to the American public for enjoyment of recreation in our national forest and parks could not be possible if we did not have the resources available to us in our private and public lands.

The State of New Mexico comprises 77,766,400 acres of which a total for all government agencies is 26,388,272 or 33.9% of the lands in the State. National forests control 9,153,364 acres or 11.77% of the lands in New Mexico. Industries using these lands are livestock, lumber and mining.

The livestock industry is probably the largest user and beneficiary of national forest lands, both in the past and in the future.

Lumber industries are next in line in use and beneficiaries of the timber that becomes available for cutting each year.

Mining industries are only beginning to come into the picture as demands for their products increase and the availability of metallics and nonmetallics becomes depleted in the older mining centers of this country. To continue to supply our needs, they must have access to all potential mineralized areas for exploration and later development and production. Without this, in time our nation will become dependent upon foreign countries for metallics and possibly certain nonmetallics at higher prices with high balance of trade deficits.

Mining in New Mexico has only touched the surface. So as time goes on and older highly developed areas are depleted, exploration of all areas in

EXHIBIT

December 12, 1972
Forest Supervisor
Page Two

New Mexico of any potential mineralization will be given more attention for the development and extraction of available minerals.

Recreation will not suffer from any of these industries. Areas which only the minor few can see or enjoy will become available to the vast majority of the American public from the Sunday picnicker to the very hardy backpacker the opportunity to enjoy all the beauty and grandeur of our federal lands.

I am in favor of the entire Gila Wilderness area and the Gila Primitive area being returned to multiple use. I certainly am not in favor of any additions to the present Wilderness Area with reversion of the Primitive Area back to national forest and multiple use.

Sincerely,


C. E. Stauder, Jr.

November 22, 1972

EXHIBIT

9421 E. Lurlene St.
Tucson, Arizona 85730

Regional Forester
Forest Service, U.S.D.A.
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

I will not be able to attend the public hearing on the Gila Wilderness/
Primitive Area, but wish to express my opinion with this letter.

As everyone knows, America is rapidly approaching an energy and natural resource crisis. Our petroleum and mineral companies are hard pressed to keep up with our insatiable demand for oil, coal, iron, copper, etc. We are becoming more and more dependent upon foreign countries for critical resources. This is dangerous because of their unstable political climate and the increase in our ever-increasing balance of payments deficit.

Probably all obvious major petroleum fields and mineral deposits have been discovered and are now depleted or in production. We must now explore for natural resources by applying sophisticated geophysical and geological tools. The equipment required to make such surveys is not easily transported by either man or beast. Giving a primitive area a wilderness classification places an additional burden on our exploration companies. Their personnel must not only travel by foot or animal, but they only have until 1983 to stake mining claims in these areas. Time and money are not available to completely examine the mineral potential of all wilderness areas by 1983.

I do not feel that all the Gila Primitive Area under consideration should be given multiple use status. I have briefly examined an open-file report by Ratte, J. C., and others of the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines on the area. The authors listed several areas of possible mineral potential on page 6. If possible, these latter areas should be excluded from the wilderness classification. I have no objection to placing those areas of little or no mineral potential in the Gila Wilderness Area.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon Pine

pb



LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

SUBSIDIARY OF U. S. INDUSTRIES, INC.



P. O. BOX 25807 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 TELEPHONE (505) 842-6000

December 27, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
United States Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Reference: Gila Wilderness Proposal Statement
December 16, 1972

Dear Mr. Hurst:

Thank you for the opportunity of testifying regarding the Gila Wilderness Proposal. I am Yale Weinstein, Forester for Duke City Lumber Company, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and while I will comment on the proposal submitted, I am speaking here as a professional forester and am not speaking for any company or association. I do not propose to avail myself of this as any opportunity to voice any serious objections to Wilderness, but rather I would prefer to submit a short statement as a proponent of "The Managed Forest."

How forests should be managed and used has become one of the more sensitive political, economic and environmental issues of modern times. A fair and wise resolution of present controversies is essential to the solution of problems in many vital areas of national concern

Concerns with:

- (a) Recreational opportunity
- (b) Resource and energy conservation
- (c) Purity of air and water
- (d) Wildlife propagation
- (e) The ability to meet the material needs of people
- (f) And the concern for the aesthetic quality of America.

There are wide variations and shades of opinion as to what constitutes good forest management. These divergent viewpoints are erupting in heated and, as yet, inconclusive legislative and forum debate at various Federal, State and local levels. The inevitable result is confusion, uncertainty, suspicion and anxiety in the minds of the public at large.



A U.S. INDUSTRIES COMPANY.
And that makes a world of difference.

December 27, 1972

A frequent confrontation results from "Forest management versus forest preservation."

Contrary to general impression, forest management and forest preservation are not irreconcilable, but thoroughly compatible when placed in proper perspective. Foresters, like preservationists--are aware that some forests should never be harvested. But foresters do not generally recommend that such areas be left unmanaged.

Instead it might be recommended that at least minimal access and protection as a safeguard against destruction by wildfire, such as permitting the salvage of diseased and dying trees that could pose a much more positive threat to forest perpetuation than chain saws.

So the big questions of the moment are these

Are these many divergent interests reconcilable?

Can the Forest Lands of the U. S. be managed in such ways that they will effectively serve all needs in years to come?

The answers can be affirmative, but only if the nation is willing to make a firm, long-term commitment to optimum development and balanced use of its forest resources.

One outstanding example of forest management and an excellent illustration of this great, renewable natural resource is exemplified and illustrated in the Black Hills of Western South Dakota. The Black Hills National Forest has been under management longer than any other Government owned forest in the nation. Its first timber sale was to the Homestake Mining Company in 1898. When gold was first discovered in the Black Hills, 1874, about 1.5 billion board feet of timber stood in these forests. Since settlement began, nearly 3 billion board feet have been harvested, enough to fill a railroad train with its caboose in Deadwood, South Dakota, and its engine in Chicago, Illinois.

The area now has 4 billion board feet of sawtimber. More than twice as much as originally existed now remains in this forest--such is the goal of the forester--such is the potential of the "The Managed Forest."

On the basis of the above, I oppose additional enlargements of existing Wilderness.

In view of the fact that there are relatively minor volumes of timber suitable for management involved in the U. S. Forest Service proposal for the Gila, I endorse the proposal as submitted by the Forest Service.

Very sincerely yours,



Yale Weinstein

YW:rt

cc: Mr. Richard Johnson
Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

EXHIBIT

701 E Street
Silver City, New Mexico 88061
January 9, 1973

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

Please add my comments to those included in the record of hearings at Silver City, New Mexico, December 15, 1972, on the Gila Wilderness proposal. From the standpoint of both management of the areas and the utility that these areas would have to the public I oppose the enlargement of the Gila Wilderness. I am opposed to the formation of the Aldo-Leopold Wilderness, the Blue Range Wilderness, or expansion of the Gila Wilderness for the reason that we need multiple-use lands more than we need additional wilderness lands. The present proposal is in direct conflict to the multiple-use concept which would provide the best use to the greatest number of people.

As a resident of New Mexico since birth, as a permittee on the wilderness district, as one who has professional training in environmental engineering, and a fourth generation of my family who have relied upon the wise application of the multiple-use concept for their livelihood I oppose the current proposal. The constraints imposed by the wilderness system preclude your achieving either good management or wise use of these areas. Further expansion of the wilderness system precludes the development of clean and unpolluted water supplies. Fewer roads and trails increase the inaccessibility of these areas, which even now are accessible only to a few hearty souls who would brave the elements in attempts to visit the wilderness. Fewer cabins and public shelters further decrease the safety of use of these areas by the general public. Efforts to achieve proper distribution of grazing are precluded by the wilderness restrictions. In fact, the current proposal precludes the application of any management practices within these areas. The result is decreased utility to the general public and reduced productivity.

Productivity once lost from these vital areas cannot be replaced in the economy of the local area or the nation. The Forest Service or any other governmental agency must operate either upon the productivity from the areas managed or upon the tax monies provided by the general public. The general public cannot tolerate further mismanagement of these areas which has resulted in an all-time low in the productivity of these areas.

In view of the innumerable studies performed and the large number of management personnel employed I can understand the concern for the meager accomplishments. May I then suggest that the stringent constraints now in effect are the cause for concern because they preclude the application of good management or achievement of high productivity.

In regard to the future management of these areas I can see no valid reason for giving them any special status except that of National Forest Service land. Please consider the vast amount of public good which can come from providing for man's use of these areas, and the satisfactions and recreational needs to which the general public is entitled and must be provided for. I hope the day will come when the studies made will reflect that man, wildlife, livestock, industry, and natural beauty are all part of one environment and all should be provided for.

EXHIBIT

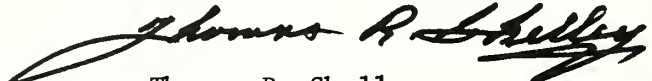
Regional Forester

- 2 -

January 9, 1973

I therefore wish to express my support of those viewpoints which have already been submitted by the Silver City and Bayard Chambers of Commerce, New Mexico Farm Bureau, local industries such as Chino Mines Division, Kennecott Copper Corporation, and the vast majority of the general public.

Yours very truly,


Thomas R. Shelley

TRS/gh

EXHIBIT

December 9, 1972
Box 2129
Socorro, New Mexico

Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Sir:

Although I seriously doubt that my writing this letter will have any effect on your decisions concerning the boundaries of the Gila Wilderness, I feel that it is still my duty to urge you to include as much as possible in the wilderness area. I realize, of course, that as a private citizen I will have far less "pull" than the large mining and lumber interests with whom your sympathies have always rested in the past. Still, I must try to convince you that what I want is better than what they want. I would like to point out that if the wilderness is not made as large as possible, even to the extent that a few rules are broken doing it, the encroachments of the future will have a far more devastating effect on the perimeter of the wilderness. In other words, the smaller the area is, the more easily it can be destroyed. If you care at all for your children and your friends' children and what their heritage will be and what they will think of us for it, I think you could not possibly entertain the notion that a smaller wilderness is better. After all, how would you feel if there were no campgrounds, no trout streams, no primeval forests to get lost in and get away from the rest of mankind? I would feel terrible, myself. And so would you. So please, preserve as much as possible for the future. Bear in mind the the mighty government axe-wielders of the future might not be so sensitive to their (your) children's needs.

Thanks for wading through the insults to hear what I have to say. I can only hope you heard me.

Sincerely


Greg Sittler

EXHIBIT
FRED HUFF
COUNTRY STORE
RT. 2, BOX 787
LAS CRUCES, N. M. 88001

January 15, 1973

Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
301 W. College Ave.
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Mr. R. Johnson:

Please make this statement part of the Public hearing record held on the Gila Primitive Area.

I am against reclassification of the Gila Primitive Area to wilderness.

The Gila Primitive Area will serve more people better if it is put into multiple use.

The huge Gila Wilderness area is enough for this part of New Mexico.

I am a land owner within the Gila Primitive Area. This has proved to be a very bad thing. The road to my place has been barricaded so I can not use my property to the fullest.

Wilderness is O.K. ! But, this part of New Mexico is already doing more than its fair share, with out adding the Gila Primitive Area to the Gila Wilderness Area.

Please do not add any more land to the already huge Gila Wilderness Area.

Thank you,

Fred Huff
Fred Huff

Rt.2 Box 787

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

EXHIBIT

December 15, 1972

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my feelings to your office in regard to the proposed enlargement of the Gila Wilderness, which would include an area of the Black Range.

I oppose any increase in the size of the current Gila Wilderness for these following reasons:

1. I feel that the interests of a minority are served by the Wilderness. Accessibility is so difficult and expensive that only a select group can really enjoy the Wilderness.

2. I feel that the interests of a majority are served by the National Forest Multiple-Use program. Tax revenues are derived from grazing permits, timber sales, mining and other uses of this land.

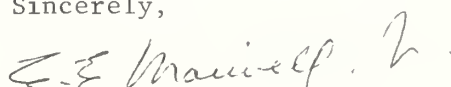
3. I oppose the hands off policy of Wilderness Areas which includes no motors, no roads, no development of stock and game tanks, etc. I have backpacked in the Gila Wilderness down the East and West forks of the Gila River and I am disgusted with so many miles of trash fish in these waters. I feel the interest of more citizens would be served if these areas were opened up. I have seen more game and better fishing in many areas of the National Forest other than in the Wilderness.

4. Admittedly, I work and derive my livelihood from the mining industry which would benefit from my opposition to the enlargement of the Wilderness, but my interest is purely selfish. I enjoy camping, fishing, and hunting, and these interests are not satisfied with the Wilderness System.

I feel we need to preserve some areas in their natural state but that we, here in New Mexico, don't need such a vast area.

I submit this letter as an interested citizen and hope you will consider my thoughts on this matter as it comes to public hearing.

Sincerely,



C. E. Maxwell, Jr.

cc: Mr. Dick Johnson

EXHIBIT

Box 440
Wallace, Idaho 83873
December 26, 1972

Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
301 West College Avenue
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Dear Sir:

Gila Wilderness Proposal

Having attended the hearing in Silver City on December 16 and not having made a statement at that time, I should like to have the following comments entered in the record.

Although I make these comments solely on my own account, I should make it clear that I am employed as a senior geologist by a company which has major interests in mining and/or mineral exploration in eight of the western states, including Arizona and New Mexico.

I should like to say, first, that I am astonished that the Forest Service proposes to add to the Gila Wilderness areas which the U.S. Geological Survey finds to be so promising from the point of view of mineral exploration. The fact that there is not now, nor has there been in the past, mineral production from these areas which, in the broad framework of the country's economy, might be called significant is irrelevant. From the legislative history of the Wilderness Act it is apparent that it was not the intent of the Congress that passed it that such areas would be included in the System; if such had been the intent of the proponents of the bill, it probably never would have become law.

The draft environmental statement concerning the proposal is most deficient in the manner in which it deals with social and economic impacts. Nowhere does it even begin to evaluate the effects of adding these areas to the large acreages already designated as wilderness and to the equally large acreages which, inevitably, will be so classified. Admittedly, if these additions were to constitute the only wilderness in the country, or even if there were to be no more anywhere, than the present Gila Wilderness Area and Gila Primitive Area, the impacts would be relatively minor. However, the impacts of these additions have to be considered as part of the entire national plan; there is recent precedent for a court forcing such broad-picture consideration in environmental statements.

The question needs to be asked, and the Forest Service should provide an unequivocal answer, "Are these additional areas unique to any very significant degree?" The public should be told, for not everyone has the means to discover for himself, whether or not the same or very similar values are being preserved, or are about to be preserved, in other classified areas, such as the existing Gila Wilderness, the Blue Range Primitive Area and the Black Range Primitive Area.

Adverse impacts resulting from such activities as mining, logging, use of off-road vehicles, etc., are not, of course, as permanent or irretrievable as the environmental statement implies and as the advocates of

EXHIBIT

Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
Gila Wilderness Proposal

December 26, 1972

Page -2-

preservation so vociferously claim. Indeed, the preservationists themselves, in opposing the exclusions proposed by the Forest Service, point to the much-diminished evidences of man's works within the areas proposed for exclusion. This natural reclamation has taken place over a period of a few decades; there exists ample evidence that reclamation can be greatly accelerated when nature has the responsible assistance of knowledgeable man. To view this whole matter from such a short-range point of view can be severely damaging to the quality of life in this country.

It is true that if access to timber and to as yet undiscovered mineral deposits in these areas is permitted, the adverse effect upon other values could be severe; however, it need not be so and, as pointed out above, it need only be temporary. Certainly the Forest Service and other agencies now have the authority, and that authority inevitably will be strengthened in the next few years, to control those impacts and to require adequate reclamation.

Undoubtedly, the non-economic values of the areas proposed for addition to the Gila Wilderness are great, but one wonders if they really are the highest or most important values. One wonders, also, who is to decide that question and what criteria are to be used in making the decision. Surely there should be some weighing of non-economic values, which probably are not unique to the area east of the Gila River, against the possibility, which certainly exists, of finding one ore body in the same area which might yield 3 to 4 million tons of copper metal; and surely the weighing should be done in public so that all the assumptions can be examined. Whatever else results from such balancing it will dispel the myth, enunciated by so many preservationists, that the benefits from mining are short-term.

Another myth foisted upon the public concerning the recreational benefits to be derived from wilderness is anathema to me and to many people. Quite aside from any consideration of resource use and the economic benefits of recreation to the immediately surrounding area, it seems to me to be far more beneficial to the public to provide public access to these less tangible values and to permit access to and use of the areas by anyone, within the limits of carrying powers of the area.

The production of raw materials of most varieties is considered by some small groups of people to be detrimental in one way or another, and it matters very little in the larger picture of environmental damage what particular material is used to fill a particular need. However, there are no recognized substitutes for the metals which might be found beneath the areas proposed for addition to the Gila Wilderness, and in this respect the mining industry does not try to create the markets for these products, it only tries to satisfy them. That the demand for these materials is going to increase dramatically by the end of the century has been known for some time; the recent publication of the first Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior, as required by the Mining and Minerals Policy Act, has put the matter beyond argument. Furthermore, while domestic consumption is increasing, so will consumption in other producing countries be increasing,

EXHIBIT

Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
Gila Wilderness Proposal


December 26, 1972

Page -3-

making their product less available to this country. The classic response to this plaint has been that, in case of national emergency or great national need, areas with mineral potential can be declassified. This assurance is an empty one: besides the time that Congress might take to effect such declassification, it would very likely take another ten years to find, develop and bring to production any mineral deposit or deposits which might be in one or other of the additional areas. Another classic response is that the mining industry still has the period until December 31, 1983, in which to find and lay claim to a mineral deposit in a wilderness area. If exploration is successful, Forest Service then will have to grant special use permits to make possible the development of the deposit. However, the regulations governing these areas are such that prospecting and exploration, using the best available technology, are either impossible or too time-consuming and too expensive to be contemplated. On the other hand, if this technology were used in spite of the restrictions, what would be found, in the larger areas proposed for addition to the Gila Wilderness, is likely to be evidence of deeply buried mineralization. Whether or not this evidence would be judged by federal agencies to constitute a valid discovery justifying the granting of special use permits is conjectural. Certainly the applications would be subject to impact statements which, in turn, would prompt public hearings. At the hearings many persons without expertise in the matter would testify to the need or lack of it for the minerals which might be found. The national need for any commodity should not be decided either by citizen-conservationists or by employees of government at any level, but by the behavior of the marketplace; this has been the traditional decision-making mechanism in these matters, and it has served, is serving and will continue to serve this country well. Furthermore, the marketplace now shows a present or impending need for all but a few of a long list of mineral commodities used by the people of the country.

For all of these reasons, and others, I am opposed to any additions to the Gila Wilderness.

Yours very truly,


S. Norman Kesten

EXHIBIT

January 15, 1973

Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

As a private citizen I am writing to contribute my views for consideration and for the record concerning the proposed revisions to the Gila Wilderness Area.

It is my firm belief that the Forest Service proposal adding 16,493 acres to the present wilderness area, excluding 65,604 acres of the present Primitive area and deleting some 1,700 acres of present wilderness is far from adequate.

While it is true that parts of the Gila Primitive Area have been overgrazed by cattle as a result of range mismanagement, this is not a justifiable reason for excluding such areas from wilderness designation. Nature will restore these abused areas if proper land management and grazing practices are adopted.

I feel very strongly that the Gila Wilderness should be established containing all of the present Gila Wilderness, all of the present Gila Primitive Area and 42,250 acres of national forest land contiguous to one or the other of these areas. Such a designation would total 614,918 acres.

I want to go on record also as opposing the Hooker Dam project which would have little value, considering that other sources of water are available and it would destroy the wild, free-flowing Gila River within much of the Gila Wilderness area.

Please include this letter as a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely yours,



Robert N. Elliott
7703 Robin Road
Dallas, Texas 75209

EXHIBIT

LAW OFFICES

DIAMOND, RASH, LESLIE & SCHWARTZ

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

1209 SOUTHWEST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.

EL PASO, TEXAS

79901

TOM DIAMOND
ALAN V. RASH
DONALD S. LESLIE
LARRY H. SCHWARTZ
NELSON SMITH
ROBERT D. EARP
RICHARD E. DUCK

AC 918
TELEPHONE
532-2277

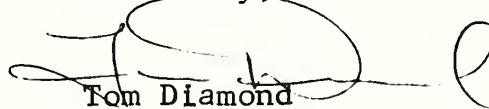
October 23, 1972

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Department of Agriculture
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 37101

Dear Forester Hurst:

Thank you so much for your letter of October 16, 1972, containing notice of public hearing on the Gila Wilderness proposal. My wife is the permittee of the Corduroy Allotment which is effected by the proposal. While the proposal will cause us some inconvenience with respect to future improvement or maintenance of the Black Mountain Mesa Pasture for the reasons set forth in your analysis, we favor the plan as submitted by your office and I would very much appreciate an opportunity to testify on behalf of the plan, as submitted, on December 15th at Western New Mexico University. I anticipate that there will be various conservation groups in attendance recommending that the entire Gila National Forest be placed in the wilderness and I am most anxious to comment on the need for balanced use of the area under Forest Service management. For this reason, I am interested in the entire proposal, not just the portion that effects my wife's permit, and feel that the proposal is a sound, balanced scheme that takes into account the interest of the public and the preservation of ecological values.

Sincerely,



Tom Diamond

TD:go

EXHIBIT

LILLIAN S. FISHER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

5610 EAST 22nd STREET
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85711

December 12, 1972

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87101

Dear Sir:

I usually find myself writing to the Regional Forester about matters that are very intimately connected with the area in and around Tucson, Arizona.

This time, however, I write to urge you to add the 19 small areas to the Gila Wilderness that you now have under consideration. Keep extending the boundaries of the primitive areas. Keep extending the boundaries of the wilderness areas. All too soon neither the Forest Service nor anybody else will have a choice as to whether boundaries of wilderness and boundaries of wilderness should be extended. They won't be able to be extended. We, in the SouthWest, are very fortunate in having some areas that are still relatively untroubled and undisturbed. It is our privilege to be able to pass these on to our descendants so that they may see the wilderness and the wilderness the same way we have and the same way in which our ancestors did. Let us preserve and extend the wilderness areas while we still can. May I urge you to do all in your power to keep this area a sanctuary.

I am sorry I am unable to attend the hearings personally. I would have liked to have been able to tell your committee what a joy it is to walk in an undisturbed area.

Very truly yours,


Lillian S. Fisher

LSF:mg

EXHIBIT
RALPH A. FISHER, JR.
P. O. BOX 1029
SILVER CITY, N. M. 88061

December 21, 1972

Mr. Richard C. Johnson
Gila National Forest Supervisor
301 West College Avenue
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Dear Sir:

Please enter this letter into the hearing record for the Gila Wilderness Proposal. I am in favor of the Forest Service proposal of 514,678 acres in the Gila Wilderness. I am in full agreement on those portions to be included in the wilderness and with those to be excluded.

In particular I cannot agree with those people or organizations who want to include that portion of the primitive area lying between Copperas Canyon on the west, the East Fork on the north, North Star Mesa on the east, and Sapiillo Canyon on the south. Granted there may be a few small areas (such as SA Canyon) that are of wilderness quality, but the majority of the area does not qualify as wilderness. There are many signs of man in the area such as mines (the Meerschaum), roads (the old military road), fences, stock tanks (Gila flats), trash dumps, etc. that keep this area from qualifying as wilderness.

The Forest Service states that there is much work to be done in this part of the primitive area to reclaim the land and this work cannot be done if it is put into the wilderness. The heavy rains of the past summer really devastated the area because of its poor surface conditions. This is evidenced by the heavy load of silt dumped into the upper end of Lake Roberts, the Sapiillo, and the Mimbres River bed. Proper management of this land over the next few years should certainly stop this silting. However, if the land is put into the National Forest, as it should be, if timbering is allowed on this land it will only abet the destruction that is fast taking place.

Over the last fifteen years I have spent considerable time hiking into various parts of this primitive area and I am really surprised at the rapid rate of deterioration throughout much of it. After it is brought back there are several places that would make ideal campgrounds if properly managed. These are badly needed now and will be even more so five or six years from now.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Fisher Jr.

EXHIBIT

14330 Skyline Dr., NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

January 16, 1973

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

I would like to submit the following comments about the Forest Service's Gila Wilderness Proposal.

In it's proposal, the Forest Service appears to have followed a concept of "wilderness purism" that is beyond the strict interpretation of the Wilderness Act. By this unilateral, administratively self-serving concept, the Forest Service has chosen to ignore that, according to the Act, wilderness is for the use of the people. The Wilderness Act provides that designated wilderness is to be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people, providing "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation".

Those people of New Mexico who have taken the time and interest to familiarize themselves with the Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Areas, have given substantial evidence of the suitability for wilderness designation of large units of land which the Forest Service proposes to exclude. I feel that there is real justification for a reconsideration, on the part of the Forest Service, of a number of the larger recommended exclusions.

I believe that the "wilderness purism" concept advocated in the Forest Service proposal does not accurately reflect how most interested citizens view the subject lands. Setting back the wilderness borders, for what I consider to be inconsequential reasons, will in effect reduce the quality of the wilderness users experience within the remaining wilderness. Wilderness areas are being used, in fact, some localized areas are experiencing overuse. Reduction of wilderness, for arbitrary reasons, is not satisfying the intent of the Wilderness Act.

There are several large parcels of land which the proposal recommends for exclusion about which I would like to specifically comment:

Exclusions 14 and 16 would remove over 4700 acres of Gila Primitive Area from wilderness designation for reasons which I feel do not justify such large exclusions. The difficulties of defining boundaries on the land,

EXHIBIT

Mr. William D. Hurst

2

excluding vehicle trespass, and restoring old roads by reseeding are not so overriding as to warrant excluding these lands.

The exclusion of 20,219 acres of Gila Primitive Area 5 should be reconsidered. There is much worthwhile wilderness land in this area. The proposal should be redrawn to exclude the 1600 acres of chained land and selected trespass problem areas along the North Star Road, without removing such large acreage from wilderness designation.

The reasoning presented for excluding over 36,000 acres of Area 6 just does not satisfy me. The sediment problem in Lake Roberts can be alleviated by placing debris basins well down in the contributing arroyos. The possibility of redrawing the boundary to provide an area for erosion control should be considered.

I suggest that the proposal presented by the "Joint Conservationists" represents the opinions of a great many concerned persons. The Forest Service should reconsider their proposals in the light of the "Joint Conservationists" proposal, as well as comments given at both hearings, before submitting the final proposal to the Congress.

Sincerely,

EA Swenson, Jr.

Edwin A. Swenson, Jr.

cc:

Senator Joseph Montoya, U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Senator Pete Domenici, U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Representative Harold Runnels, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

Representative Manuel Lujan, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

EXHIBIT

Statement Concerning the Boundaries of the Gila Wilderness

Marvin H. Wilkening
Socorro, New Mexico

Dr. Wilkening is Professor of Physics and Dean of Graduate Studies at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, and he is a former president of the New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Association. He has hiked, hunted and fished, and organized numerous pack trips into the Gila Wilderness from points along the north boundary since taking up residence in Socorro in 1948.

My remarks are concerned primarily with the northern portions of the Gila Primitive and Wilderness areas, the parts that I have been privileged to enjoy with family and friends over a span of nearly 25 years. For those of us who helped resist the Iron Creek Mesa timber tract exclusion in 1952 and then assisted in securing passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, this hearing on the final boundaries of the Gila Wilderness is a fitting climax to a long struggle to see that the Gila, the oldest of all Wilderness areas, is forever secure within permanent boundaries.

1. The Forest Service is to be commended on the attempts made in its recent proposal to place the new boundary along natural topographic features. In addition, the simple realignment of the boundary in certain cases makes a major difference in the variety of the wilderness experiences available. For example, the proposed boundary on Gilita Ridge between Willow Creek and Snow Creek clearly identifies this five-mile stretch of the Gilita Canyon as a definite part of the Wilderness.
2. We strongly urge that Aeroplane Mesa and the prime grassland between the Loco Mountain ridge and the Middle Fork canyon be included in the Wilderness. (This is the western three quarters of exclusion 14).

EXHIBIT

Whether viewed from the top of Loco Mountain ridge or west from the Canyon Creek-Flying W trail, this is one of the most inspiring vistas in the Gila country. The origin of the name, Aeroplane Mesa, derives from General Chennault's landings there almost forty years ago and adds historical interest to the area. These remote grasslands provide prime habitat for herds of antelope, and the upper reaches of the south exposure of the Loco Mountain ridge are known to provide shelter and forage for large numbers of deer and elk in the winter season.

Dry camps made by fishermen at the top of the old Trotter Place trail have been the origin of at least two serious grass fires on Aeroplane Mesa. We feel that permanent closure of the jeep trail and the air strip as they would be under Wilderness status would eliminate this hazard.

A suggested eastern boundary for this area would run north up the main stem of the Flying W canyon to the Loco Mountain ridge, some two miles farther east than in the Forest Service proposal. To deny the north Gila this sweep of grassland border would be to rob it of its own distinctive brand of beauty!

3. The proposed boundary from Flying W canyon eastward to Black Mountain crosses below the deep canyon headquarters of the Hulse place which has served for decades as the departure point for many wilderness pack trips. Eastward, exclusion 16 provides a comfortable margin around the Double Springs ranch, the location of "Horse Camp" made famous by the late Dub Evans in his book, Slash Ranch Hounds.

We give full support to the inclusion of the country east and south of Beaver Points (inclusion A) as part of the Wilderness and emphasize the importance of the pinyon-juniper mesa and canyon lands in the northeast part of the Gila Wilderness as a type of country that will play an

EXHIBIT

increasingly important role in wilderness utilization in the years to come.

4. The portion of the Gila country lying between the North Star road and the present Wilderness boundary is less familiar to us. However, we are aware of relatively heavy use made of the Diamond Bar country, and we agree with the Forest Service with respect to exclusion 5.

We recommend that most of the main body of exclusion 6 west of Turkey Cienega canyon be retained as wilderness. The very rough canyon country north of the Sapillo valley is unique and could be readily identified with the Black Canyon-Apache Creek wilderness further north. Some exclusions would have to be made along the western edge as recommended in the proposal.

Decisions with respect to boundaries for the eastern portion of the Wilderness are indeed difficult to make. These words from Section 2 of the Wilderness Act of 1964 must apply and ultimately have to be our guide:

"A wilderness . . . is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, . . . an area . . . retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation . . . and which . . . generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable . . . ".

M H Wilkening
16 Dec 1974

EXHIBIT

December 19, 1972

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Subject: Gila Wilderness Proposal

Gentlemen:

The proposal appears to promote the wilderness plan to preserve unspoiled land for future generations and speaks highly of the need and benefits of such land. However, I do not feel the net result of this proposal is in agreement with the desired goals.

The original Gila Wilderness contained over 750,000 acres. The present wilderness/primitive area totals 565,484 acres and the proposal is to have a wilderness area of 514,678 acres. This is a further net REDUCTION of over 50,000 acres!

Reasons given for these actions are ambiguous. The proposal states, "To fully meet the requirements of the Wilderness Act, and in order to more efficiently administer, protect, and manage the proposed Gila Wilderness...." It also says, "Establishment of the Gila Wilderness, as proposed, would not materially change current administration and management of the involved lands."

It appears that monetary considerations for special commercial and private interest groups is the primary motivation. This is evidenced by reading the reasons for proposed additions and exclusions to the wilderness. It is suggested that land be added to the Gila Wilderness if it is unsuited for commercial forest operations, recreation development, valuable mineralization, or good grazing use. Some of this land is described as having "extraordinary wilderness qualities. The sheer rock dropoffs,..., extremely steep country...." It is proposed that land be excluded from the wilderness/primitive area if it has the mark of man on it--such as earthen stock tanks, fences, wells, and roads.

The admitted fact that the Forest Service has not been able to protect the wilderness values of primitive area sections is all the more reason to maintain as much of a buffer zone as possible to the core of the Gila Wilderness. If man has only to make earthen stock dams, build fences, construct a stockman's cabin, or otherwise inflict the mark of man in a desired section of a primitive area to make it unsuited for continued primitive/wilderness designation--then, I fear, the entire Wilderness Program is doomed and reasons for its continued existence are pure folly. We must in fact care little for future generations.

EXHIBIT

Regional Forester

-2-

December 19, 1972

Creating the "peninsula" in the southeastern portion of the proposed Gila Wilderness with a neck less than two miles across is only setting the stage for the next cut. This area would receive, from all sides, the same pressure from commercial and private monetary interest groups that is now being felt by most of the Gila Primitive Areas. Again, it would be the same situation-- "...protection of the wilderness values has been impossible."

I do understand that some areas are more suited for wilderness/primitive designation than others. But no less than a reasonably even trade-off must be tolerated if any wilderness is to survive the OUTSIDE PRESSURE--UNSUITED--DECLASSIFIED cycle which is only further continued by the subject proposal.

I am grateful for the opportunity to express my views on this proposal and to have them made a part of the hearing record. I sincerely urge and plead that the Secretary of Agriculture, the President, and Congress provide the Forest Service with the authority and facilities to prevent further reduction of wilderness/primitive areas in New Mexico and maintain the current area of the Gila Wilderness and Primitive Areas.

Sincerely,



R. David Shank

7133 Coors Road, S. W.

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105

EXHIBIT
ROBERT O. ANDERSON
Box 1000
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO
88201

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
518 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

I have followed with interest the forthcoming hearings on the Gila Wilderness Area and would like very much to get a letter of record supporting the maximum area for the Gila Wilderness. In setting aside wilderness areas, I think we frequently overlook the need for grassland areas and as broadened a spectrum as possible of various life zones.

I realize some of the Gila country has been damaged by over-grazing and other uses; however, nature is quiet resourceful in terms of self-regeneration and I strongly believe that within a hundred years the evidence of mankind will be greatly reduced.

My own opinion is that the maximum area, in excess of 600,000 acres as proposed by the Wilderness Society, is truly in the public interest over a long period of years. I hope that the final decision is to enlarge the wilderness area to embrace its original area plus such areas as have been recommended for addition. I know this is a unique country and with its rapidly growing population area, I hope the decision will be made to protect the largest possible area.

Very best wishes,



December 14, 1972

December 26, 1972

Regional Forester ,
Forest Service USDA
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

I am writing to declare my support for the Joint Conservationist Proposal concerning the Gila Wilderness. I support all additions proposed by this group, along with the land exchange with Hamilton. I am adamantly against the Hooker Dam and any and all exclusions to the Gila Wilderness. I am a housewife, not affiliated with any large group other than the Animal Protection Institute for whom I do not speak. I am neither rich nor leisured as has been implied by those who speak for large timber and mining companies, and I resent their totally misdirected statements. I have a full-time job and still have time to enjoy the wilderness areas around me, in contrast to those who spend their free time watching spectator sports and drinking beer. I hold no bitterness against those who do not feel drawn to the outdoors, and I expect them to feel the same way--and to allow me to fulfill my need to do so.

My needs, however, are not what prompted me to write. I believe that wildlife rights have been compromised to a perilous degree and feel strongly that we should stop this destruction where it can be stopped--in New Mexico, in the Gila. The Gila is a prime example of an area where those who wish to make the effort can enjoy the benefits and splendor of wildlife undisturbed along with a relief from our massive, technology-oriented society. We have pushed our wildlife far too long! It is long past time to stand up as individuals and speak for those who cannot. The timber companies, mining companies and cattlemen talk about being "wilderness poor." At this statement, I must shudder and counter with the fact that twice as much land in this country has been set aside as highway land than has been set aside for wilderness areas. What a tragedy! Where will future generations escape from the rush of technology, the pressures of the cities and the fumes from our transportation vehicles? Will we deny them what we ourselves have enjoyed?

Regional Forester

December 26, 1972

Page two

I feel now the frustration of being only one person making a plea for something which deserves the attention of thousands and millions of people. My frustration is consoled, however, by remembering the persons who showed up, in larger numbers than I could have hoped for, to speak at the public hearing for the Wilderness proposals. Those who spoke gave me more hope than I have felt previously. We have too long let those who use money for power speak for us and against that which we love. Our water is polluted by them, our air poisonous, and our countryside stripped. We can blame no one but ourselves for allowing this to happen without our attention. This will not happen again. Here in New Mexico, we have shown those in power that we are paying attention to each further travesty against nature. Those in power may try over and over to push through destruction, but we shall only grow in numbers opposing each move. Human life is not without its dependence upon other life. We who pride ourselves on being the "supreme beings" of the earth, have allowed ourselves to be far too short-sighted. Without other life, ours too ends.

I listened while a "housewife" from Denver, who happened to be employed by a large timber company, spoke about her enjoyment of the mountains behind Denver. My lord, how can she even keep a straight face? Those mountains are no longer pure and clean. From Denver one can no longer even see the mountains for the smog and the fumes. Colorado has sacrificed its beauty and its wilderness for money and those who loved the state are sickened and those who profitted are leaving. Will we, too, learn the tragic mistakes too late? In New Mexico there is still time and still beauty to be saved. Each acre in the Gila is more than grassland and timber, much more than that alone. There is precious life, peace, the opportunity for solitude and reflection! That cannot be replaced by synthetics. Energy can be created and substituted for--life is unique and must be preserved as it is. There is no substitute.

In conclusion, I must speak of gathering strength. If this Gila proposal is defeated by those who have much money and much political influence, let it not be thought of as the last battle. Each battle shall inevitably get worse and more bitter. Those in power have already been shown here in New Mexico that the conservationists are gathering forces for a large battle. Those on the side of vested interest can only lose in the long run. The voters are the ultimate power for them and the voters are already beginning to see. Those who wish for continued power shall in the end be shown that the

EXHIBIT

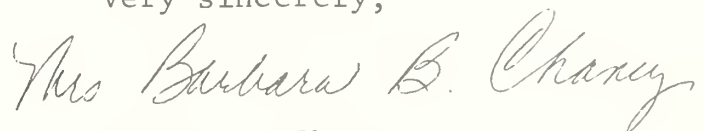
Regional Forester
December 26, 1972
Page three

people are not the doops that they once took them for. We shall rally again and again until our strength of numbers forces a recognition. Please, I appeal to all of you who are in power, listen to us now and listen to your own hearts. We must preserve our country's natural resources -- its wildlife, its streams, its overwhelming beauty. And you who love New Mexico, can you in your own hearts destroy that which makes this state unique and so beautiful? The joy I receive while travelling through this state--watching the hawks and the deer, fishing the streams, enjoying the freedom and solitude which can be found only rarely anywhere else in this country--is unmeasured... perhaps, if you decide against the Conservationist proposal, it has been too long since you experienced the feeling of being a unique individual, strong in your identity as a feeling human being, free from the pressures of those who you know to be tainted by selfishness and greed. Perhaps you never have felt this. But can you deprive others of this privilege? Can you revoke the right to life of wild animals who have no knowledge of money and power, but only know the beauty of life itself without its synthetics?

Please, before you vote and make your very important decision, listen to your own consciences and feel what you must feel as a human being--sympathy for life. Those animals feel pain and fear as you and I do. They need room and freedom, even if we deny ourselves this luxury. Help us in New Mexico to preserve what precious little wilderness left to us remains!

Thank you for your patience and your attention.

Very sincerely,



Barbara B Chaney
4001 Thaxton SE
Albuquerque 87108

cc: Rep. Manuel Lujan
Sen. Pete Domenici



Year around wilderness recreation for novice campers or experienced outdoorsmen.

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Evergreen, Colorado 80439
Telephone: (303) 674-4695

12 Jan 1973

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

For the record of the Gila Wilderness hearing:

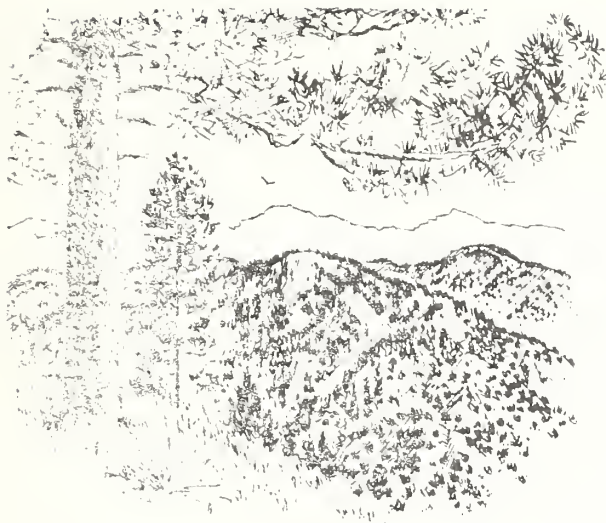
I am sorry that I cannot support the inadequate proposal of the U.S. Forest Service which excludes far too much potential wilderness for short-sighted reasons.

Reserving space for Hooker Dam is a prime example of faulty decision-making. Having studied the resources and boundary problems of the Gila for several years, I am very much aware that there are alternate sites for Hooker Dam, and that the project itself is virtually unnecessary.

I support the citizens' 614,918-acre proposal as the only wise decision in this time of increasing demand for wilderness.

Sincerely,

William B. Mounsey



EXHIBIT

THE GILA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the Preservation of
the Nation's First Wilderness Area

3501 North Freeway
Tucson, Arizona 85705

14 January 1973

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Subject: Gila Wilderness Proposal

Dear Sir:

I testified at the hearing on the Gila Wilderness proposal which was held on 15 December 1972 at Silver City, New Mexico. This letter is to confirm the content of my oral statement.

The Gila Wilderness Committee is formed of interested individuals living mostly in Silver City, New Mexico, and Tucson, Arizona, where I reside. Although our membership is small, about 15 members, we accomplished much of the field work in the Gila Wilderness and the Gila Primitive Area which went toward the formulation of the conservationist proposal which was presented at the Silver City hearing by Mr McComb, who is a member of the committee. Since our participation in formulating the conservationist proposal was material, we fully support it.

Of course, we also support the Forest Service proposal, but as a minimum. We prefer the alternative offered by the conservationist proposal.

We especially want to emphasize the support of our committee for the conservationist additions AA and BB, which if included in the eventual wilderness would do away with Forest Service exclusions 5 and 6, respectively. The Forest Service reasoning to support exclusion of these two areas does not stand examination.

The evidence of human intrusion cited by the Forest Service is either so very insignificant or so very old that it is virtually imperceptible. In any event, what evidence there is will soon revert to nature. All these human incursions occurred under Forest Service management under Primitive Area regulations. If the areas must be excluded because of them, this is certainly no credit to the Forest Service. For these reasons, it seems strange that the Forest Service argues for exclusion.

Another argument which is advanced in support of exclusion 6 has to do with erosion in Railroad Canyon on the south side of the present Gila Primitive

EXHIBIT

Regional Forester

(2)

14 January 1973

Area, which is said to be causing Lake Roberts to fill with sediment. As an argument for dropping the entire 38,000 acres of exclusion 6, this point is specious. The conservationist proposal for adding area BB to the Gila Wilderness omits this erosion problem. In doing so we ask for the inclusion of the 38,000 acre addition. Why lose 38,000 acres for the sake of a few erosive acres?

We urge that these areas, our AA and BB, the bulk of the present Gila Primitive Area totalling 58,240 acres, be included in the Gila Wilderness. They have excellent natural qualities. There is no insuperable problem in boundary enforcement involved. To omit them would be to continue the sad history of the original Gila Wilderness, continuing its dismemberment. The Gila Wilderness certainly deserves the description, "The Dismembered Wilderness", the title of an article I read several years ago. To see what I mean, one needs only to take a look at history.

The Gila Wilderness was a grand idea for which Aldo Leopold is generally given a great deal of credit. A plaque has been erected beside U S Route 180 not far from Pleasanton in his honor. This plaque now looks out over what is left of his grand idea.

The Gila Wilderness was established in 1924 with over 750,000 acres. This acreage included more than the total of the present Gila Wilderness, the present Gila Primitive Area, and the present Black Range Primitive Area. Since then it has been attacked from all sides by a miscellany of interests. Vicissitudes in the very early years reduced it to 695,000 acres.

The first dismemberment came in 1931-2 when a motor road was put straight through it from Mimbres to the Beaverhead Ranger Station, thus severing the present Black Range Primitive Area, around 132,000 acres, from the main body. Also about this time came a "fire control" road up Copperas Canyon. This gave access to private inholdings along the Gila River, and received such heavy use that in the early 1930's a corridor along the road amounting to some 3,000 acres was carved out of the wilderness, all but severing the present Gila Primitive Area from the main body which remained.

In 1944, World War II brought the excision of 5,150 acres along the south border of the wilderness because of fluorspar deposits. In 1953, the present area of the Gila Wilderness was administratively classified as such under Regulation U-1, leaving all of the present Primitive Areas under the old and weaker L-20 classification, and reducing the area fully classified as wilderness to 438,626 acres. The eastern area, east of the road up Copperas Canyon, was not included under the new regulation because it had been too heavily penetrated by motor vehicles, mostly those of hunters.

Besides being dissected as described, the original Gila Wilderness has been violated by excessively luxurious trails, by mechanized hunters, by the introduction of non-native game species of ungulates while inhibiting natural population control by predators, by the control of the predators themselves, by artificial game management, by the introduction of exotic "sport" fish into the Gila River system, and by artificial fire control. This unnatural interference has led to ecological changes which are not compatible with the maintenance of wilderness. In particular, fire control has led to significant changes in the flora, and to the constant danger of really destructive fires. The temptation to allow harvesting of commercial timber has been a constant threat.

EXHIBIT

Regional Forester

(3)

14 January 1973

The present Gila Wilderness is the remnant, at only some 400,000 acres, of the original wilderness of nearly twice that size. It is now, however, protected by law as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In considering the Black Range Primitive Area for wilderness status we had a chance to restore somewhat the dismembered condition of the old Gila Wilderness. The Aldo Leopold Wilderness proposal is certainly a step in the right direction.

Now another chance is afforded us to correct the previous dismemberment which we should not misuse. In adding the bulk of the present Gila Primitive Area to the Gila Wilderness we will take another big step in the direction of restoring Aldo Leopold's original design. The Gila Wilderness Committee urges everyone, including the Forest Service, to adopt the conservationist proposal.

In conclusion I want to emphasize that the value of wilderness is most certainly not in recreation alone. The principal value is in the preservation of some portion of the original natural values of our country for its scientific interest, which has many facets. Wilderness is a resource which we must not squander.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry M. Zeller", is written over the typed name and title.

Henry M Zeller
Co-Chairman

EXHIBIT

5115 Mountain Crest Drive
Knoxville, Tenn. 37918

December 18, 1972

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Re: Gila Wilderness
New Mexico

Dear Sir:

I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the Hearing Record.

I have no better words for stating my approval of the citizen-conservationists' proposal to establish a Gila Wilderness of 614,918 acres than to quote former U.S. Forest Service Chief Richard E. McArdle. On September 12, 1954, at a dedication of a memorial to Aldo Leopold erected in the Gila National Forest, I was present when Mr. McArdle said: "I am thinking of Aldo Leopold's vision in stimulating wilderness appreciation. Starting here with the Gila Wilderness, this vision has grown until now on the National Forests alone there are 79 such areas.. .

"We need the wilderness -- areas to be kept forever in their natural primitive condition. . . We need them even more in the future. We need these wilderness areas for scientific purposes. We need them, too, as a kind of emotional safety valve to relieve the stresses and strains of modern life. The wilderness is good medicine.

"The preservation of wilderness conditions. . . is important use of the national forests."

My late husband also spoke at the same ceremony. Mr. Broome said, in part: "Man is one of the biota. His numbers, as well as his works, can ravage the earth. . . Ours is the first great nation in history to be possessed of both the knowledge and means to bring about within its borders a state of permanent and harmonious co-existence with the land."

In 1954 the Gila Wilderness as a designated area was already thirty years old; but not until that year was it given official dedication. A memorial plaque to Aldo Leopold was erected, with the U.S. Forest Service participating.

EXHIBIT

-2-

Now in 1972 conservationists must ask all over again for protection of the same Gila Wilderness, as well as the Gila Primitive area. A far-seeing move would be the inclusion of 45,000 acres of national forest land contiguous to either the existing wilderness or the primitive area.

To assure that the vision of Aldo Leopold will not become clouded, the Hooker Dam must not be allowed to destroy any of this wilderness established by the Forest Service in Mr. Leopold's memory.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Inne Broome". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

(Mrs. Harvey Broome)

EXHIBIT

4721 Choctaw Dr.
San Lieo 92115
Dec. 21, 1972

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave., S.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87101

Dear Sir:

We are pleased that your agency is proposing adding acreage to the Gila Wilderness from the Gila Primitive Area, adjacent National Forest lands, and private land. We have long been interested in the Gila Wilderness because it was the first, and because it contains magnificent scenery and other recreational-educational values close to an expanding population. As southern Californians, we know about the need for wilderness close to crowded cities!

We are disappointed that the U.S. Forest Service is not including all of the present Primitive Area; we recommend this be done. We are also disappointed that the USFS proposes to delete 1700 acres from the present Gila Wilderness; we recommend these deletions be dropped. We are pleased that contiguous National Forest land is recommended for acquisition, and that private land acquisition is recommended; we support these ideas, and urge early purchase of the private lands.

We have one caution: we are most unwilling for federal agencies, the Congress, and interested citizens to devote time and effort to the establishment of a greater Gila Wilderness -- if Hooker Dam is to be built. An area which is so valuable to the nation as to be set aside as part of the country's wilderness system should not be destroyed by a dam and water impoundment. We recommend that action be taken to avoid a dam in the Gila Wilderness.

In conclusion, we recommend the establishment of a Gila Wilderness of approximately 615,000 acres without water impoundment. Please make our views part of the Dec. 16 hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Morley Jean Morley
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Morley

EXHIBIT

January 8, 1973

James E. Fitting
3884 Hilltop Road
Onkama, Michigan
49675

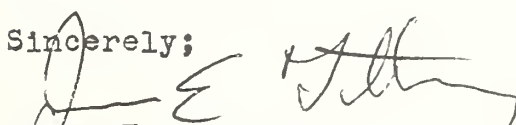
Regional Forester
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87101

Dear Sir;

I am writing to express my views on rezoning portions of the Gila Primitive Area as part of the Gila Wilderness area. I have been carrying our Archaeological Survey and excavation in and around the Gila National Forest, including some work in the Primitive Area, for six years now. I answer your letter requesting opinions on this rezoning from this perspective. I have also been influenced recently by an Master of Science Thesis in Natural Resources prepared by Robert W. Phillips at the University of Michigan (entitled: MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES LOCATED IN REMOTE WILDERNESS LOCATIONS IN ARID LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN: CEDAR MESA--GRAND GULCH: A CASE STUDY). I would urge you to obtain a copy of this excellent study and use it in your planning efforts. It documents all of my arguments.

Basically, I feel that the Gila Wilderness is an irreplaceable laboratory for not only the natural sciences but the social sciences as well. It preserves an archaeological record which is complete with the NATURAL SETTING IN WHICH PREHISTORIC MAN LIVED. This is not to be found outside of the forest where contemporary economic activities have altered the landscape to the point where paleoecological studies of human communities are a near impossibility. For my research, the Gila Wilderness is a laboratory that, once gone, could not be re-established at any price. I strongly support your efforts to enlarge and strengthen the Gila Wilderness. Any short term gain derived from rezoning multiple use would go into private hands and would not match in any way the public expense that would arise from the loss of this resource.

Sincerely;


James E. Fitting
State Archaeologist of Michigan, Research Associate in
Anthropology at Southern Methodist University, Michigan.
State University and the Fort Burgwin Research Center,
Taos, New Mexico.

EXHIBIT

Larry and Mary Jo Wiltermood
642 Dora Avenue
Bremerton, Washington 98310

January 5, 1973

Regional Forester
Forest Service, USDA
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

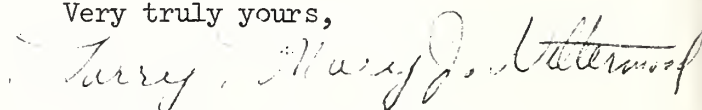
Gentlemen:

The proposal by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southwestern Region for exclusions and additions to the Gila Wilderness has come to our attention.

The Gila Wilderness is truly a unique and beautiful creation of nature. Since its classification as National Forest Wilderness, through the help of Aldo Leopold, it has diminished in size. This first National Forest Wilderness may not be setting a good example for the numerous wilderness areas set aside by the National Forest Service since this first wilderness. I hope not all will continue to follow your program to diminish the included areas as you gentlemen have apparently strived for through the years. A wilderness may be left without motorized access. Land, I believe, can be added or retained to insure a buffer zone. This buffer zone in years to come may revert to a more natural state, or at least, balance some of the heavy usage which is to be expected. I hope that you gentlemen realize the needs of the nation at this time and in the future.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I submit this statement in support of the alternate proposal of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee to be made a part of the hearing record.

Very truly yours,



LARRY AND MARY JO WILTERMOOD

cc: Forest Supervisor, Silver City, N. M.
John R. McGuire, Chief, USDA Forest Service
Senator Henry Jackson, Washington State
Sierra Club
Justice William O. Douglas

APPENDIX C



Public Law 88-577
88th Congress, S. 4
September 3, 1964

An Act

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Wilderness Act.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Wilderness Act".

WILDERNESS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED STATEMENT OF POLICY

SEC. 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas", and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

(b) The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress. No appropriation shall be available for the payment of expenses or salaries for the administration of the National Wilderness Preservation System as a separate unit nor shall any appropriations be available for additional personnel stated as being required solely for the purpose of managing or administering areas solely because they are included within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

78 STAT. 890.

78 STAT. 891.

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS

(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geo-

logical, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM—EXTENT OF SYSTEM

SEC. 3. (a) All areas within the national forests classified at least 30 days before the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "wilderness", "wild", or "canoe" are hereby designated as wilderness areas. The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) Within one year after the effective date of this Act, file a map and legal description of each wilderness area with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made.

(2) Maintain, available to the public, records pertaining to said wilderness areas, including maps and legal descriptions, copies of regulations governing them, copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications. Maps, legal descriptions, and regulations pertaining to wilderness areas within their respective jurisdictions also shall be available to the public in the offices of regional foresters, national forest supervisors, and forest rangers.

Classification.

Presidential
recommendation
to Congress.

Congressional
approval.

78 STAT. 891.
78 STAT. 892.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within ten years after the enactment of this Act, review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified on the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "primitive" and report his findings to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to the designation as "wilderness" or other reclassification of each area on which review has been completed, together with maps and a definition of boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of all the areas now classified as "primitive" within three years after the enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years after the enactment of this Act, and the remaining areas within ten years after the enactment of this Act. Each recommendation of the President for designation as "wilderness" shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Areas classified as "primitive" on the effective date of this Act shall continue to be administered under the rules and regulations affecting such areas on the effective date of this Act until Congress has determined otherwise. Any such area may be increased in size by the President at the time he submits his recommendations to the Congress by not more than five thousand acres with no more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of such increase in any one compact unit; if it is proposed to increase the size of any such area by more than five thousand acres or by more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in any one compact unit the increase in size shall not become effective until acted upon by Congress. Nothing herein contained shall limit the President in proposing, as part of his recommendations to Congress, the alteration of existing boundaries of primitive areas or recommending the addition of any contiguous area of national forest lands predominantly of wilderness value. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may complete his review and delete such area as may be necessary, but not to exceed seven thousand acres, from the southern tip of the Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive Area,

Colorado, if the Secretary determines that such action is in the public interest.

(c) Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system and every such area of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges, under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness. The President shall advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of his recommendation with respect to the designation as wilderness of each such area or island on which review has been completed, together with a map thereof and a definition of its boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of the areas and islands to be reviewed under this subsection within three years after enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years of enactment of this Act, and the remainder within ten years of enactment of this Act. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Nothing contained herein shall, by implication or otherwise, be construed to lessen the present statutory authority of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the maintenance of roadless areas within units of the national park system.

(d) (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall, prior to submitting any recommendations to the President with respect to the suitability of any area for preservation as wilderness—

(A) give such public notice of the proposed action as they deem appropriate, including publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper having general circulation in the area or areas in the vicinity of the affected land;

(B) hold a public hearing or hearings at a location or locations convenient to the area affected. The hearings shall be announced through such means as the respective Secretaries involved deem appropriate, including notices in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation in the area: *Provided*, That if the lands involved are located in more than one State, at least one hearing shall be held in each State in which a portion of the land lies;

(C) at least thirty days before the date of a hearing advise the Governor of each State and the governing board of each county, or in Alaska the borough, in which the lands are located, and Federal departments and agencies concerned, and invite such officials and Federal agencies to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing or by no later than thirty days following the date of the hearing.

(2) Any views submitted to the appropriate Secretary under the provisions of (1) of this subsection with respect to any area shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to Congress with respect to such area.

(e) Any modification or adjustment of boundaries of any wilderness area shall be recommended by the appropriate Secretary after public notice of such proposal and public hearing or hearings as provided in subsection (d) of this section. The proposed modification or adjustment shall then be recommended with map and description thereof to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and the House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to such modification or adjustment and such recom-

Report to President.

Presidential recommendation to Congress.

Congressional approval.

Suitability.

Publication in Federal Register.

Hearings.

Publication in Federal Register.

78 STAT. 892.

78 STAT. 893.

Proposed modification.

mendations shall become effective only in the same manner as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

USE OF WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 4. (a) The purposes of this Act are hereby declared to be within and supplemental to the purposes for which national forests and units of the national park and national wildlife refuge systems are established and administered and—

(1) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to be in interference with the purpose for which national forests are established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of June 12, 1960 (74 Stat. 215).

(2) Nothing in this Act shall modify the restrictions and provisions of the Shipstead-Nolan Act (Public Law 539, Seventy-first Congress, July 10, 1930; 46 Stat. 1020), the Thyé-Blatnik Act (Public Law 733, Eightieth Congress, June 22, 1948; 62 Stat. 568), and the Humphrey-Thyé-Blatnik-Andresen Act (Public Law 607, Eighty-fourth Congress, June 22, 1956; 70 Stat. 326), as applying to the Superior National Forest or the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including, but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796(2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

(c) Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(d) The following special provisions are hereby made:

(1) Within wilderness areas designated by this Act the use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture deems desirable. In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Furthermore, in accordance with such program as the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and conduct in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, such areas shall be surveyed on a planned, recurring basis consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present; and the results of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President and Congress.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, until midnight December 31, 1983, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall, to the same extent as applicable prior to the effective date of this Act, extend to those national forest lands designated by this Act as "wilderness areas"; subject, however, to such reasonable regulations governing ingress and egress as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture consistent with the use of the land for mineral location and development and exploration, drilling, and production, and use of land for transmission lines, waterlines, telephone lines, or facilities necessary in exploring, drilling, producing, mining, and processing operations, including where essential the use of mechanized ground or air equipment and restoration as near as practicable of the surface of the land disturbed in performing prospecting, location, and, in oil and gas leasing, discovery work, exploration, drilling, and production, as soon as they have served their purpose. Mining locations lying within the boundaries of said wilderness areas shall be held and used solely for mining or processing operations and uses reasonably incident thereto; and hereafter, subject to valid existing rights, all patents issued under the mining laws of the United States affecting national forest lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas shall convey title to the mineral deposits within the claim, together with the right to cut and use so much of the mature timber therefrom as may be needed in the extraction, removal, and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if needed timber is not otherwise reasonably available, and if the timber is cut under sound principles of forest management as defined by the national forest rules and regulations, but each such patent shall reserve to the United States all title in or to the surface of the lands and products thereof, and no use of the surface of the claim or the resources therefrom not reasonably required for carrying on mining or prospecting shall be allowed except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act: *Provided*, That, unless hereafter specifically authorized, no patent within wilderness areas designated by this Act shall issue after December 31, 1983, except for the valid claims existing on or before December 31, 1983. Mining claims located after the effective date of this Act within the boundaries of wilderness areas designated by this Act shall create no rights in excess of those rights which may be patented under the

Mineral leases,
claims, etc.

78 STAT. 894.
78 STAT. 895.

provisions of this subsection. Mineral leases, permits, and licenses covering lands within national forest wilderness areas designated by this Act shall contain such reasonable stipulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for the purposes for which they are leased, permitted, or licensed. Subject to valid rights then existing, effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.

Water resources.

(4) Within wilderness areas in the national forests designated by this Act, (1) the President may, within a specific area and in accordance with such regulations as he may deem desirable, authorize prospecting for water resources, the establishment and maintenance of reservoirs, water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest, including the road construction and maintenance essential to development and use thereof, upon his determination that such use or uses in the specific area will better serve the interests of the United States and the people thereof than will its denial; and (2) the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) Other provisions of this Act to the contrary notwithstanding, the management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, formerly designated as the Superior, Little Indian Sioux, and Caribou Roadless Areas, in the Superior National Forest, Minnesota, shall be in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the general purpose of maintaining, without unnecessary restrictions on other uses, including that of timber, the primitive character of the area, particularly in the vicinity of lakes, streams, and portages: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall preclude the continuance within the area of any already established use of motorboats.

(6) Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

(7) Nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from State water laws.

78 STAT. 895.

78 STAT. 896.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests.

STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 5. (a) In any case where State-owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands within areas designated by this Act as wilderness, such State or private owner shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture: *Provided, however*, That the United States shall not transfer to a State or private owner any mineral interests unless the State or private owner relinquishes or

Transfers, restriction.

causes to be relinquished to the United States the mineral interest in the surrounded land.

(b) In any case where valid mining claims or other valid occupancies are wholly within a designated national forest wilderness area, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area as wilderness, permit ingress and egress to such surrounded areas by means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other such areas similarly situated.

(c) Subject to the appropriation of funds by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of any area designated by this Act as wilderness if (1) the owner concurs in such acquisition or (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by Congress.

Acquisition.

GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SEC. 6. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture may accept gifts or bequests of land within wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary of Agriculture may also accept gifts or bequests of land adjacent to wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness if he has given sixty days advance notice thereof to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Land accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section shall become part of the wilderness area involved. Regulations with regard to any such land may be in accordance with such agreements, consistent with the policy of this Act, as are made at the time of such gift, or such conditions, consistent with such policy, as may be included in, and accepted with, such bequest.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept private contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of this Act.

ANNUAL REPORTS

SEC. 7. At the opening of each session of Congress, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior shall jointly report to the President for transmission to Congress on the status of the wilderness system, including a list and descriptions of the areas in the system, regulations in effect, and other pertinent information, together with any recommendations they may care to make.

Approved September 3, 1964.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 1538 accompanying H. R. 9070 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs) and No. 1829 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORT No. 109 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 109 (1963): Apr. 4, 8, considered in Senate.

Apr. 9, considered and passed Senate.

Vol. 110 (1964): July 28, considered in House.

July 30, considered and passed House, amended, in lieu of H. R. 9070.

Aug. 20, House and Senate agreed to conference report.

APPENDIX D

TITLE 36 - PARKS, FORESTS, AND MEMORIALS

Chapter II - Forest Service, Department of Agriculture Part 251 - Land Uses

Administration and Use of National Forest Wilderness and National Forest Primitive Areas

PART 293 - WILDERNESS-PRIMITIVE AREAS.

Section 293.1 - Definition

National Forest Wilderness shall consist of those units of the National Wilderness Preservation System which at least 30 days before the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, were designated as Wilderness and Wild under Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations U-1 and U-2 (36 C.F.R. 251.20, 251.21), the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as designated under Regulation U-3 (36 C.F.R. 251.22), and such other areas of the National Forests as may later be added to the System by act of Congress. Sections 251.70 to 251.84 apply to all National Forest units now or hereafter in the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Superior National Forest, except as that area is subject to Section 251.85.

Section 293.2 - Objectives

Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, National Forest Wilderness shall be so administered as to meet the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical uses; and it shall also be administered for such other purposes for which it may have been established in such a manner as to preserve and protect its wilderness character. In carrying out such purposes, National Forest Wilderness resources shall be managed to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation.

To that end:

- a. Natural ecological succession will be allowed to operate freely to the extent feasible.
- b. Wilderness will be made available for human use to the optimum extent consistent with the maintenance of primitive conditions.

- c. In resolving conflicts in resource use, wilderness values will be dominant to the extent not limited by the Wilderness Act, subsequent establishing legislation, or these regulations.

Section 293.3 - Control of Uses

To the extent not limited by the Wilderness Act, subsequent legislation establishing a particular unit, or these regulations, the Chief, Forest Service, may prescribe measures necessary to control fire, insects, and disease and measures which may be used in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons or damage to property and may require permits for, or otherwise limit or regulate, any use of National Forest land, including, but not limited to, camping, campfires, and grazing of recreation livestock.

Section 293.4 - Maintenance of Records

The Chief, Forest Service, in accordance with Section 3(a)(2) of the Wilderness Act, shall establish uniform procedures and standards for the maintenance and availability to the public of records pertaining to National Forest Wilderness, including maps and legal descriptions; copies of regulations governing Wilderness; and copies of public notices and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications. Copies of such information pertaining to National Forest Wilderness within their respective jurisdictions shall be available to the public in the appropriate offices of the Regional Foresters, Forest Supervisors, and Forest Rangers.

Section 293.5 - Establishment, Modification, or Elimination

National Forest Wilderness will be established, modified, or eliminated in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3(b), (d), and (e) of the Wilderness Act. The Chief, Forest Service, shall arrange for issuing public notices, appointing hearing officers, holding public hearings, and notifying the Governors of the States concerned and the governing board of each county in which the lands involved are located.

- a. At least 30 days' public notice shall be given of the proposed action and intent to hold a public hearing. Public notice shall include publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of the land involved.
- b. Public hearings shall be held at locations convenient to the area affected. If the land involved is in more than one State, at least one hearing shall be held in each State in which a portion of the land lies.
- c. A record of the public hearing and the views submitted subsequent to public notice and prior to the close of the public hearing shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to the Congress with respect to any such action.
- d. At least 30 days before the date of the public hearing, suitable advice shall be furnished to the Governor of each State and the

governing board of each county or, in Alaska, the borough in which the lands are located, and Federal Departments and agencies concerned; and such officers or Federal agencies shall be invited to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing or in writing by not later than 30 days following the date of the hearing. Any views submitted in response to such advice with respect to any proposed Wilderness action shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to the Congress with respect to any such action.

Section 293.6 - Commercial Enterprises, Roads, Motor Vehicles, Motorized Equipment, Motorboats, Aircraft, Aircraft Landing Facilities, Airdrops, Structures, and Cutting of Trees

Except as provided in the Wilderness Act, subsequent legislation establishing a particular Wilderness unit, or Sections 251.27, 251.28, 251.30, 251.75 (c) and (d), 251.76, 251.77, and 251.81 through 251.85, inclusive, of these regulations, and subject to existing rights, there shall be in National Forest Wilderness no commercial enterprises; no temporary or permanent roads, no aircraft landing strips, no heliports or helispots; no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, or other forms of mechanical transport; no landing of aircraft; no dropping of materials, supplies, or persons from aircraft; no structures or installations; and no cutting of trees for non-wilderness purposes.

- a. "Mechanical transport," as herein used, shall include any contrivance which travels over ground, snow, or water on wheels, tracks, skids, or by flotation and is propelled by a nonliving power source contained or carried on or within the device.
- b. "Motorized equipment," as herein used, shall include any machine activated by a nonliving power source, except that small battery-powered, hand-carried devices such as flashlights, shavers, and Geiger counters are not classed as motorized equipment.
- c. The Chief, Forest Service, may authorize occupancy and use of National Forest land by officers, employees, agencies, or agents of the Federal, State, and county governments to carry out the purposes of the Wilderness Act and will prescribe conditions under which motorized equipment, mechanical transport, aircraft, aircraft landing strips, heliports, helispots, installations, or structures may be used, transported, or installed by the Forest Service and its agents and by other Federal, State, or county agencies or their agents, to meet the minimum requirements for authorized activities to protect and administer the Wilderness and its resources. The Chief may also prescribe the conditions under which such equipment, transport, aircraft, installations, or structures may be used in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons, damage to property, or other purposes.
- d. The Chief, Forest Service, may permit, subject to such restrictions as he deems desirable, the landing of aircraft and the use of motorboats at places within any Wilderness where these uses were established prior to the date the Wilderness was

designated by Congress as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Chief may also permit the maintenance of aircraft landing strips, heliports, or helispots which existed when the Wilderness was designated by Congress as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 293.7 - Grazing of Livestock

The grazing of livestock, where such use was established before the date of legislation which includes an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System, shall be permitted to continue under the general regulations covering grazing of livestock on the National Forests and in accordance with special provisions covering grazing use in units of National Forest Wilderness which the Chief of the Forest Service may prescribe for general application in such units or may arrange to have prescribed for individual units.

The Chief, Forest Service, may permit, subject to such conditions as he deems necessary, the maintenance, reconstruction, or relocation of those livestock management improvements and structures which existed within a Wilderness when it was incorporated into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Additional improvements or structures may be built when necessary to protect wilderness values.

Section 293.8 - Permanent Structures and Commercial Services

Motels, summer homes, stores, resorts, organization camps, hunting and fishing lodges, electronic installations, and similar structures and uses are prohibited in National Forest Wilderness. The Chief, Forest Service, may permit temporary structures and commercial services within National Forest Wilderness to the extent necessary for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes, which may include, but are not limited to, the public services generally offered by packers, outfitters, and guides.

Section 293.9 - Poisons and Herbicides

Poisons and herbicides will not be used to control wildlife, fish, insects, or plants within any Wilderness except by or under the direct supervision of the Forest Service or other agency designated by the Chief, Forest Service; however, the personal use of household-type insecticides by visitors to provide for health and sanitation is specifically excepted from this prohibition.

Section 293.10 - Jurisdiction over Wildlife and Fish

Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibility of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the National Forests.

Section 293.11 - Water Rights

Nothing in these regulations constitutes an expressed or implied claim or denial on the part of the Department of Agriculture as to exemption from State water laws.

Section 293.12 - Access to Surrounded State and Private Lands

States or persons, and their successors in interest, who own land completely surrounded by National Forest Wilderness shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to that land. "Adequate access" is defined as the combination of routes and modes of travel which will, as determined by the Forest Service, cause the least lasting impact on the primitive character of the land and at the same time will serve the reasonable purposes for which the State and private land is held or used. Access by routes or modes of travel not available to the general public under these regulations shall be given by written authorization issued by the Forest Service. The authorization will prescribe the means and the routes of travel to and from the privately owned or State-owned land which constitute adequate access and the conditions reasonably necessary to preserve the National Forest Wilderness.

Section 293.13 - Access to Valid Mining Claims or Valid Occupancies

Persons with valid mining claims or other valid occupancies wholly within National Forest Wilderness shall be permitted access to such surrounded claims or occupancies by means consistent with the preservation of National Forest Wilderness which have been or are being customarily used with respect to other such claims or occupancies surrounded by National Forest Wilderness. The Forest Service will, when appropriate, issue permits which shall prescribe the routes of travel to and from the surrounded claims or occupancies, the mode of travel, and other conditions reasonably necessary to preserve the National Forest Wilderness.

Section 293.14 - Mining, Mineral Leases, and Mineral Permits

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these regulations, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall extend to each National Forest Wilderness for the period specified in the Wilderness Act or subsequent establishing legislation to the same extent they were applicable prior to the date the Wilderness was designated by Congress as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

- a. Whoever hereafter locates a mining claim in National Forest Wilderness shall within 30 days thereafter file a written notice of his Post Office address and the location of that mining claim in the office of the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger having jurisdiction over the National Forest land on which the claim is located.
- b. Holders of unpatented mining claims validly established on any National Forest Wilderness prior to inclusion of such unit in the National Wilderness Preservation System shall be accorded the rights provided by the United States mining laws as then applicable to the National Forest land involved. Persons locating mining claims in any unit of National Forest Wilderness on or after the date on which the said unit was included in the National Wilderness Preservation System shall be accorded the rights provided by the United States mining laws as applicable to the National Forest land involved and subject to provisions specified in the establishing legislation. All claimants shall comply with reasonable conditions prescribed by the Chief, Forest

Service, for the protection of National Forest resources in accordance with the general purposes of maintaining the National Wilderness Preservation System unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness and so as to provide for the preservation of its wilderness character; and a performance bond may be required.

- (1) Prior to commencing operation or development of any mining claim, or to cutting timber thereon, mining claimants shall file written notice in the office of the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger having jurisdiction over the land involved. Unless within 20 days after such notice is given the Forest Service requires the claimant to furnish operating plans or to accept a permit governing such operations, he may commence operation, development, or timber cutting.
- (2) No claimant shall construct roads across National Forest Wilderness unless authorized by the Forest Service. Application to construct a road to a mining claim shall be filed with the Forest Service and shall be accompanied by a plat showing the location of the proposed road and by a description of the type and standard of the road. The Chief, Forest Service, shall, when appropriate, authorize construction of the road as proposed or shall require such changes in location and type and standard of construction as are necessary to safeguard the National Forest resources, including wilderness values, consistent with the use of the land for mineral location, exploration, development, drilling, and production and for transmission lines, waterlines, telephone lines, and processing operations, including, where essential, the use of mechanical transport, aircraft or motorized equipment.
- (3) Claimants shall cut timber on mining claims within National Forest Wilderness only for the actual development of the claim or uses reasonably incident thereto. Any severance or removal of timber, other than severance or removal to provide clearance, shall be in accordance with sound principles of forest management and in such a manner as to minimize the adverse effect on the wilderness character of the land.
- (4) All claimants shall, in developing and operating their mining claims, take those reasonable measures, including settling ponds, necessary for the disposal of tailings, dumpage, and other deleterious materials or substances to prevent obstruction, pollution, excessive siltation, or deterioration of the land, streams, ponds, lakes, or springs, as may be directed by the Forest Service.
- (5) On mining claims validly established prior to inclusion of the land within the National Wilderness Preservation System, claimants shall, as directed by the Forest Service and if application for patent is not pending, take all reasonable measures to remove any improvements no longer needed for mining purposes and which were installed after the land

was designated by Congress as Wilderness and, by appropriate treatment, restore, as nearly as practicable, the original contour of the surface of the land which was disturbed subsequent to the date this regulation is adopted and which is no longer needed in performing location, exploration, drilling, and production and promote its revegetation by natural means. On such part of the claim where restoration to approximately the original contour is not feasible, restoration for such part shall provide a combination of bank slopes and contour gradient conducive to soil stabilization and revegetation by natural means.

- (6) On claims validly established after the date the land was included within the National Wilderness Preservation System, claimants shall, as directed by the Forest Service, take all reasonable measures to remove improvements no longer needed for mining purposes and, by appropriate treatment, restore, as near as practicable, the original contour of the surface of the land which was disturbed and which is no longer needed in performing location and exploration, drilling and production, and to revegetate and to otherwise prevent or control accelerated soil erosion.
- c. The title to timber on patented claims validly established after the land was included within the National Wilderness Preservation System remains in the United States, subject to a right to cut and use timber for mining purposes. So much of the mature timber may be cut and used as is needed in the extraction, removal, and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if needed timber is not otherwise reasonably available. The cutting shall comply with the requirements for sound principles of forest management as defined by the National Forest rules and regulations and set forth in stipulations issued by the Chief, Forest Service, which as a minimum incorporate the following basic principles of forest management:
- (1) harvesting operations shall be so conducted as to minimize soil movement and damage from water runoff; and
 - (2) slash shall be disposed of and other precautions shall be taken to minimize damage from forest insects, disease, and fire.
- d. Mineral leases, permits, and licenses covering lands within National Forest Wilderness will contain reasonable stipulations for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for purposes for which they are leased, permitted, or licensed. The Chief, Forest Service, shall specify the conditions to be included in such stipulations.
- e. Permits shall not be issued for the removal of mineral materials commonly known as "common varieties" under the Materials Act of July 31, 1947, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 601-604).

Section 293.15 - Prospecting for Minerals and Other Resources

The Chief, Forest Service, shall allow any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about minerals or other resources in National Forest Wilderness except that any such activity for gathering information shall be carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment, and except, further, that:

- a. No person shall have any right or interest in or to any mineral deposits which may be discovered through prospecting or other information-gathering activity after the legal date on which the United States mining laws and laws pertaining to mineral leasing cease to apply to the specific Wilderness, nor shall any person after such date have any preference in applying for a mineral lease, license, or permit.
- b. No overland motor vehicle or other form of mechanical overland transport may be used in connection with prospecting for minerals or any activity for the purpose of gathering information about minerals or other resources except as authorized by the Chief, Forest Service.
- c. Any person desiring to use motorized equipment, to land aircraft, or to make substantial excavations for mineral prospecting or for other purposes shall apply in writing to the office of the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger having jurisdiction over the land involved. Excavations shall be considered "substantial" which singularly or collectively exceed 200 cubic feet within any area which can be bounded by a rectangle containing 20 surface acres. Such use or excavation may be authorized by a permit issued by the Forest Service. Such permits may provide for the protection of National Forest resources, including wilderness values, protection of the public, and restoration of disturbed areas, including the posting of performance bonds.
- d. Prospecting for water resources and the establishment of new reservoirs, water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest and the subsequent maintenance of such facilities, all pursuant to Section 4(d)(4)(1) of the Wilderness Act, will be permitted when and as authorized by the President.

Section 293.16 - National Forest Primitive Areas

Within those areas of National Forests classified as "Primitive" on the effective date of the Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964, there shall be no roads or other provision for motorized transportation, no commercial timber cutting, and no occupancy under special-use permit for hotels, stores, resorts, summer homes, organization camps, hunting and fishing lodges, or similar uses: Provided, That existing roads over National Forest lands reserved from the public domain and roads necessary for the exercise of a statutory right of ingress and egress may be allowed under appropriate conditions determined by the Chief, Forest Service.

Grazing of domestic livestock, development of water storage projects which do not involve road construction, and improvements necessary for the protection of the National Forests may be permitted, subject to such restrictions as the Chief, Forest Service, deems desirable. Within Primitive Areas, when the use is for other than administrative needs of the Forest Service, use by other Federal agencies when authorized by the Chief, and in emergencies, the landing of aircraft and the use of motorboats are prohibited on National Forest land or water unless such use by aircraft or motorboats has already become well established, the use of motor vehicles is prohibited, and the use of other motorized equipment is prohibited except as authorized by the Chief. These restrictions are not intended as limitations on statutory rights of ingress and egress or of prospecting, locating, and developing mineral resources.

(78 Stat.890, 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136; 30 Stat. 35, as amended 16 U.S.C. 551; 74 Stat. 215, 16 U.S.C. 528-531)

Done at Washington, D. C., this 31st day of May, 1966

/s/ Orville L. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture



R0001 116210

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICENATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESSES
AND
PRIMITIVE AREAS

JANUARY 1973

WILDERNESSES
(UNITS OF THE NATIONAL
WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM)

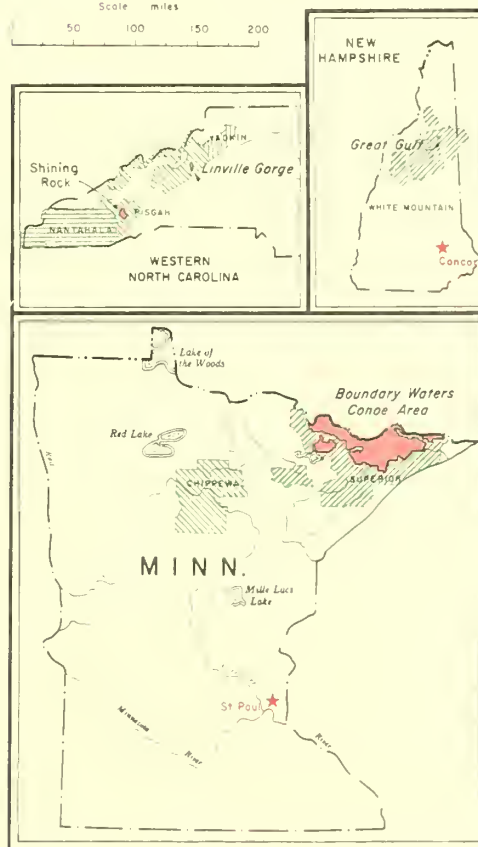
PRIMITIVE AREAS

NATIONAL FORESTS AND
PURCHASE UNITSNational Forest Wilderness and Primitive Areas
as of January 1973

State	Wildernesses		Primitive Areas	
	Number of Units	Net Area (Acres)	Number of Units	Net Area (Acres)
Arizona.....	8	495,902	1*	173,712
California.....	17	1,595,798	4	356,602
Colorado.....	5	280,104	6	538,831
Idaho.....	2*	1,205,071	2	1,441,603
Minnesota.....	1	747,840	—
Montana.....	6*	1,721,863	4	417,802
Nevada.....	1	64,667	0	0
New Hampshire....	1	5,552	0	0
New Mexico.....	5	679,436	3*	336,591
North Carolina....	2	20,925	0	0
Oregon.....	10	837,082	0	0
Utah.....	—	1	237,177
Washington.....	4	1,094,873	0	0
Wyoming.....	5	1,989,034	3	384,000
Total.....	66	10,738,147	23	3,886,318

*Includes unit also located in an adjacent State. Total adjusted.

- ★ STATE CAPITALS
○ REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Scale miles
50 100 150 200

Additional Wilderness and Primitive Areas are shown on back cover.

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